Smash

ALL-STAR REQUEST ISSUE

MALCOLM MCLAREN Coming up to scratch





SPANDAU BALLET · SHAKIN' STEVENS · TOYAH and lots more



You got soul on the dole
You're gonna have a good time down on the line
You're gonna have a good time down on the line
I said get, get, get on down
Hey everybody take a look at me
I've got street credibility
I may not have a job
But I have a good time with the boys
That I meet down on the line
I said D.H.S.S.
Man the rhythm that they're giving is the very best
I said B.I. B.Z.
Make a claim, sign your name's all you have to do

Well folks can be a drag if work ain't your bag And when you let them know You're more dead than alive in a nine to five Then you say you've got to go And get yourself a job or get out of this house Get yourself a job Are you a man or a mouse A finger in each ear you pretend not to hear Gotta get some space, get out of this place

Chorus

Wham! Bam! I am a man
Job or no job
You can't tell me that I'm not
Do you enjoy what you do
If not just stop
Don't stay there and rot

In the streets, in the cars, on the underground if you listen real hard you can hear the sound Of a million people switching off for work Well listen Mr Average you're a jerk Net me, you can't hold me down Not me, I'm gonna fool around Gonna have some fun Look out for number one You can dig your grave I'm staying young

Repeat Chorus

If you're a pub man
Or a club man
Maybe a jet black guy with a hip hi-fi
A white cool cat with triliby hat
Maybe leather and studs
Is where you're at
Make the most of everyday
Don't let hard times stand in your way
Give a wham, give a bam
But don't give a damn'
Cause the benefit gang are gonna pay

Now reach up high
And touch your soul
The boys from Wham
Will help you reach that goel
It's gonna break your mame's heart (so sad)
It's gonna break your daddy's heart (too bad)
But you'll throw the dice and take my advice
Because I know that you're smart
Can you dig this thang (yeah)
Are you gonna get down (yeah)
Say wham (wham)
Say bam (bam)

Repeat chorus and ad lib to fade

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Special All-Star All-Request Issue

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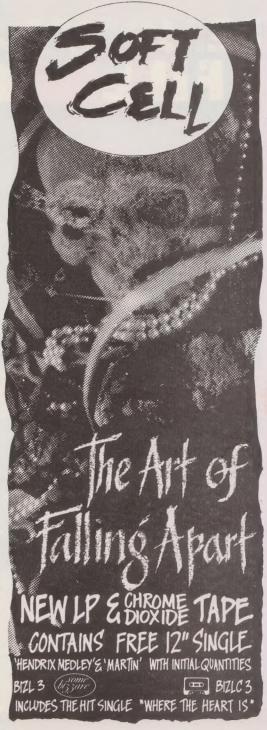
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OVER MALCOLM MILLAREN BY ERIC WATSON

BARRY: HIS PICKS TO CLICK



PERSONAL

Pete Wylie



NAME: Peter James Wylie BORN: March 22, 1958 in the Pool Of Life (Liverpool).

FIRST MEMORY: Getting up at eleven o'clock this morning. That's as far back as my memory goes. No, my first memory is being hit by a football on my thigh in very cold weather and having to run round in pain.

BIGGEST THRILL AS A CHILD:
Using my cheek to get away with

things.

DD YOU SIT AT THE BACK OR
THE FRONT OF THE CLASS?: It
all depended on who else was
sitting where. There used to be a
team of us who used to sit at the
back of the Maths lesson.
FIRST SINGLE BOUGHT: "War"
by Edwin Starr. It was dead
exciting—it even had a tune.
FIRST LP BOUGHT: "Ziggy
Stardust" by David Bowie.
FIRST CONCERT ATTENDED:
Bowie at the Hardrock in
Manchester. December 28, 1972.
It was absolutely stunning. I'd
never really seen anything like it
before—my head was turned. In
1973 on June 10 I saw him at the
Liverpool Empire on the "Aladdin
Sane" tour which was really wild.
He introduced the group as:
"Trevor Boulder on bass, Woody
Woodmansey on drums and

I saw him in Bingley Hall in 1978

and I was really let down.

FIRST DATE: I've never really had

"dates". It was probably a girl
called Janie The Mink about six
years ago. I turned up to meet her
— this was in the days of the
so-called Crucial Three —
wearing a toilet seat. My belt
was threaded through it so that if
I sat down I was sitting on the
toilet seat. Liverpool was just
wacky in the early days of punk. I
went out with her for about four
years after that.

LAST BOOK READ; "On Broadway" by Damon Runyon. I really like his short stories. I couldn't read loads of them at once — I just dip into them. LAST FILM SEEN: At the pictures, Bladerunner; on video, O Lucky Man!

FAVOURITE SANDWICH: The chocolate sandwich in O Lucky

FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING:
Other people's clothing. John
McCarthy's leather jacket or my
flatmate. Coo's shoes — they're
red brothel-creepers. I borrowed
them for a party and I've been
wearing them for two months.
They're knackered now.
JOBS? Nine days in a rice mill in

FAVOURITE TIME OF DAY: Late at night, about two in the morning, 'cos' lget home and just watch videos. After we played Liverpool the last time, we came home and watched a video of The Young Ones and I laughed till I was hoarse. I was still hoarse for the London date the next night. COLOUR OF BEDROOM WALL: It's covered in pictures of my heroes so I can't tell what colour it is. There's everyone from Frank Sinatra to Marlon Brando, Eddie Cochran, Eddy Yates, James Provin anopa whole been eave

PASTIMES: Sleeping, vendettas, making video compilations, being cheeky, making a mess of the flat. DO YOU SUPPORT EVERTON OR

LIVERPOOL? Liverpool,
definitely! King Kenny!
WHAT'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION? To exact sweet
revenge on Sharon Duckworth
and Finkler The Snake.



In God we truss. Well, in Ozzie Osbourne actually. Yes, that's him in the chain mail legwarmers. As to the identity of his friend pictured here with a bag of pork scratchings and a foaming mug of cream soda, we're not sure we even want to find out.

••••••••••••



The latest in a continuing series. Further proof that George O'Dowd has been dressing up for years. Here's the Boy himself and friend posing furiously and supping beer at Spandau Ballet's second ever gig — a "secret" one on the HMS Belfast back in July 1980.

Stunts



You'd never mistake him for Marc Almond. That stern face! Those rippling muscles! That new double A-side single ("Hand To Hold On To" ("Hurts So Good")! You'd think Johnny Cougar would be able to find smeone to me



And the heavens opened and there came forth confetti in very large quantities as Toyah performed at London's Shaftesbury Theatre. Having recovered from this terrifying ordeal, she'll be devoting portions of the new year to writing material for the next LP, several acting roles that are in the pipeline (TV, films and theatre), playing abroad and designing a range of personal togs. The first of these was the arresting kimono she wore for her "Be Loud Be Proud" appearance on TOTP. "Inspired by Picasso," apparently.



Everyone forgot to be cool for a few hours when The Camden Palace opened its doors and threw a Christmas tea party for 250 local children. Wham! and Imaginations sang the backing vocals behind Junior's live rendition of "Mama Used To Say". Captain Sensible and Steve Strange joined in the party games and had a few laughs with The Belle Stars. And Siobhan of Bananarama (top) and Andrew Ridgely of Wham! (below) got down on the floor and danced cheek to cheek with the guests. Makes you feel kinda warm inside, doesn't it?



THINKING W

"It's exciting because you can take other people's records and make something else out of them," says Malcolm McLaren, and he doesn't mean ashtrays? He's talking about scratching, the technique behind "Buffalo Gals", phase one of his masterplan to put some magic back in the music.

Neil Tennant listens with interest.

man in his thirties with a shrill voice and a big, daft hat is telling me how pop music can regain its lost purpose. He uses embarrassing terms like "rock 'n' roll" and "magic"; his conversation skips from the villages of Zululand to the streets of Tooting. His name is Malcolm McLaren.

In the late 1970s McLaren masterminded The Sex Pistols, briefly throwing the music industry into disarray. After they split up, he reappeared as the creator of Bow Wow Wow, putting subversive lyrics into the mouth of the teenage Annabella and introducing African rhythms into British pop. He left them to their own devices when he realised the group wouldn't work out until Annabella had enough experience of life to understand what she was singing about.

In the middle of 1982 he teamed up with ABC's producer Trevor Horn ("He was somebody who could manipulate whatever machinery was necessary to get the satisfactory sound"), to embark upon an ambitious project. He would bring back the original magic and excitement of rock 'n' roll music by tracking it down to its source in Africa and through the music of other cultures, from Red Indians to the black teenagers of New York.

What he discovered in New York was "scratching": the manipulation of records and record players to produce new music out of old. This excited him more than any rock 'n' roll music he'd heard since The Sex Pistols. It had "adventure".

From what I'd heard about him, I expected to meet a bit of a loony but found instead a man with the manner of an inspired teacher talking a great deal of sense. See what you think.

What's wrong with pop music?

People tend to forget that rock 'n' roll could be the most sophisticated music of all time. I say that because its roots lie in deepest Africa. It has the same primitive magic as you might listen to in a pygmy tribe. "Rock'n'roll" is a term people are scared to use because they think it's a cliché but it's really the best way to me of summing up an intention to change things, a wishing to step outside of the norm.

English people think with their heads, in America they think with their hips, because they're black, they're from Africa originally and they have the whole magical source of what music should do, to conjure up the soul within you, utilise your body to turn yourself maybe into a trance and let yourself step out from the normal world. That was the origins and the magic of rock 'n' roll when it first happened in 1956 in the form of a white man called Elvis Presley. Groups like ABC and Haircut One Hundred have forgotten what the real truth and source of that magic was. They're too far away from it. They're just something to be purchased like wallpaper or a piece of clothing. They've got nothing to do with creating magic in your life which was the fundamental intention behind rock 'n' roll, as I know it. I think it was behind the Sex Pistols when they started.

spent force because people can't reach out and become part of that magic. There's no real spirit in it. They're packaging and marketing as big as possible. But you didn't have to sell The Beatles in the early 60s - you didn't really have to sell The Sex Pistols. But you're having to sell ABC, Haircut One Hundred, Adam Ant. And think that none of them have that real spirit and excitement that makes you think not about purchasing them, but about joining the gang. It's a different attitude. I never thought that anyone had to go out and purchase The Sex Pistols - it was all about being part of it.

What's all this got to do with "Buffalo Gals"?

I want to dig up that excitement, to bring into Britain that magic that people are losing. "Buffalo Gals" is part of a whole project that I've been working on since June and I put it out first because I thought it was the most radical, it would make people think about the way they listen to music and use music. The interesting thing about that record is that it's an adventure story, it doesn't keep to a verse-chorusverse-chorus format which most Western records or songs are made up of.

A Buffalo Gal was a pioneer, an adventurer, someone cowboys in the Wild West sang about at barn dances when they were trying to get a girl: that's what the square dance is on the B-side of the record. Square dancing in the last century was their rock 'n' roll, long before rock 'n' roll existed. I wanted to show that, exposed properly, it has as much vehemence. There's a caller, just like a rapper, who's shouting out the instructions -- "First Buffalo Gal go round the outside" etc - and everyone follows that movement. We recorded that in Tennessee and then went to New York.

There we saw all these kids on a derelict site spinning records and mixing them and, as they spun the records, turning them backwards and forward, slow or fast, scratching them. You heard a word out in two and then repeated twenty times and cut in with a guitar instrumental from a

completely different era, all blended together. Then they got a microphone and another guy started hollering over the top.

That attitude was, to me, not much different from Buffalo Gals in Tennessee, they were both very folk-orientated, serving the people's needs and they both had a practical purpose. There was also all the dance that evolved from the South Bronx area of New York where all this was going on; very gymnastic, to do with your body. Thinking with your hips. It was this parallel between the two that I wanted to show. Neither had anything to do with what we presume to be a modern pop record. And yet I wanted to demonstrate that this had more excitement, more content, because it hadn't been tampered with or been packaged. It had the essence of what I think is magical in music, It was the starting point for going on further in the world.

We went all over. To Peru, Zululand, Swaziland, the Dominican Republic, Tennessee, Miami, New York, Rome. We had an incredible time working with Cuban priests and Zulu warriors. The Zulus are a very proud people, probably the most musical people I've ever heard in my life. In their land I

Where else did you go?

heard in my life. In their land I saw what I was looking for, something that had all the rock 'n' roll there. I just travelled from place to place, lived in different small towns until I discovered a variety of musicians, put one with another, listened to the

I felt great because I would

traditional rhythms.

HYUKH

never otherwise have known the absolute sophistication, excitement, power of these people and I would never have been able to believe sincerely that rock 'n' roll is an inspiration that comes from Africa and is the music of probably the oldest civilisation in the world. Little Richard was really an exponent of African music years. And those guys in the

cooking with their hands on those record players are not doing anything much different. It's the same spirit. The technique of those guys mixing records directly relates to a witch doctor mixing a potion in Africa, or the Red Indian who starts talking to the trees or a child communicating with

way they communicated through an incredible load of old machinery to a planet out in the middle of nowhere. To me it has the same optimism, the same anti-adultness and a certain subversion. Suddenly there's a use for all those old records which haven't been played for years. It's a use in the sense that it sudder choose what's good in their

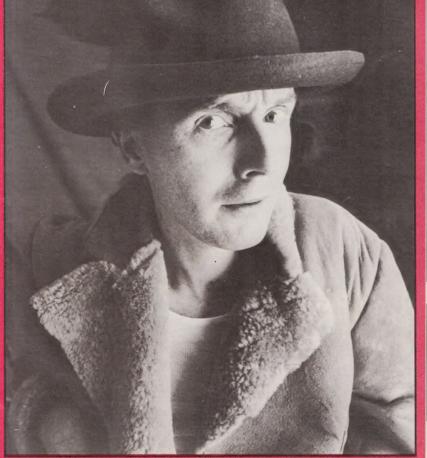
Is all this really going to have any impact on people? I played a tape of this music They were buzzing about the street trying to do what here they call "Robot" and in New York they call "Electric Boogle". I jumped out of a car and played them a cassette and they said: "That's tough!" I asked them what they meant and they said "That's tough music. We like tough music. That's good." One kid was a punk rocker and the other kid was black and a little more funky.

These are the people I can very easily see getting hold of their brother's or their mother's record players and fitting them up and piling up a load of old records and figuring out what's a good groove and a good beat. Suddenly a whole different attitude will take place. Live discotheques where deejays will be grooving along to their favourite records with their friends coming in to give them a hand, scratching one record into another.

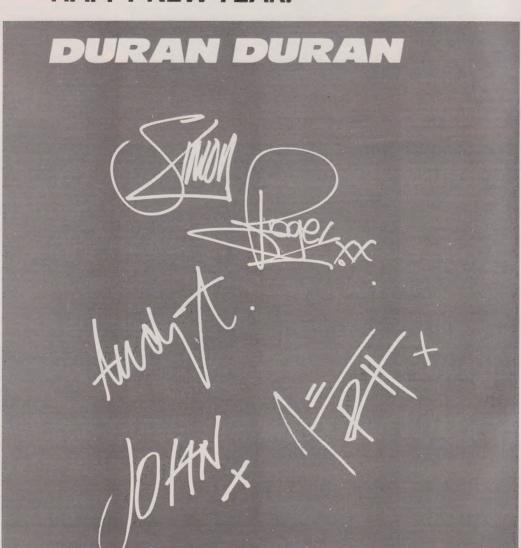
The more that music becomes like the movies the better. I think that E.T. is one of the finest rock 'n' roll movies ever made - it has all the sensuality, subversion and style that most records today don't have. In the 60s music had it and films didn't so much. Nowadays kids would rather go to a movie-Star Wars, Bladerunner, E.T. - than buy a record. Records have got to come up with the same amount of optimism and potential. I think this technique is a starting point for that.

I think it can happen here. Suddenly discotheques will be more vigorous and

exciting than any concert on the stage of the Hammersmith Odeon. Live discothegues. I really think that'll happen. So, there's no longer such a thing as a finished record, is there? Turn the page to find out more.



TO SMASH HITS AND THEIR READERS THANK YOU HAPPY NEW YEAR.



PLAY IT AGAIN, SAI



... only this time get rid of the vocal, whack the bass up and mix in the chorus from this other record. That's the name of the new game. Instead of making new records you can re-make old ones. Fred Dellar reports.

1982 was the year of make and mend. A year in which no usable snippets from the past were allowed to go to waste. A year in which doing it on the cheap became

fashionable.

In Hollywood, the film industry cobbled together a new Pink Panther epic from leftover Peter Sellers clips and even manufactured one of the year's best private eye movies in Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid by using material often shot way back in the '30s and '40s. Some folk also found that they could get extra mileage out of records that weren't particularly time-worn in any way. Producer Martin Rushent was astute enough to realise that, while The Human League's "Dare" album had already claimed chart-topping status, that didn't have to be the end of the line. So he promptly took the original tapes and remixed them to form The League Unlimited's "Love And Dancing" becoming even friendlier with his bank manager as a result.

The technique of remixing - taking an old tape or record and altering its whole identity by erasing certain sounds, dropping in new ones or merely emphasising certain elements of the recording — is something that's been around for years. Producers caught on to the possibilities at an early stage and began adding strings to old recordings made by long dead stars - or, using the overdub technique, achieving duets between singers who never met and sessions between musicians who never

iammed together.

Reggae studio mainmen utilised the remix to create Dub, a whole new music form which demonstrated that a record did not have to be a definitive object the be-all and end-all of a recording session. It could be added to, subtracted from, converted from a vocal item into a purely instrumental one and vice-versa. Made into anything you wanted it to be, in fact. And you didn't even need a whole mass of studio equipment to achieve impressive results. Any DJ owning a small mixer or maybe a more sophisticated device known as a graphic equaliser, could actually revamp the sound of a disc onstage - merely by pushing a few slider controls up or down,



Malcolm McLaren: turning everyone into a producer.



thus altering sound frequencies and presenting his or her very own personal version of some turntable favourite. And if the DJ wanted to become the vocalist on the record, that too could be achieved by cutting the existing vocals and adding his own on-mike contributions. Anything was possible. In the States, some DJs. discovered that their onstage remixes of existing hits often attracted more attention than the originals. The record companies soon tagged on to this phenomenon and hauled some of these talented record revampers into the studios to provide exciting new mixes for the companies themselves. The result was a deluge of variously mixed discs, all aiming for their own particular share of the world market. And if Junior's British-mix version of "Mama Used To Say" didn't make the grade, then what the hell! Could be that the American mix could - and did - succeed in its place.

Currently there are hundreds of remixes around, particularly on disco-oriented labels like Salsoul and Prelude, one of the most successful being Donna Summer's Casablanca recording of "I Feel Love", which originally went to No. 1 in 1977 and has recently been

remixed into a 1982 success Todd, a guy who helps run Record Shack, one of London's leading disco record specialist shops, says: American mixes are always better, that's why we sell so many. Over there, they cut out the waste, get back to the basics. British mixes are generally too cluttered." But Chris Hill, a top British club DJ, disagrees. "The whole different-mix situation is a bit of a joke really. What often happens is that club audiences latch onto a record in its early days and by the time it becomes a hit, they're bored with it. So the record companies come up with a different mix in order to reactivate interest. Anyway, British mixes are generally much better than their American counterparts — over here we try to make them like really good pop records. When the American's tried to remix things like Central Line's 'Walking In Sunshine', they didn't turn out nearly so well. Now, in the wake of the multi-mix situation, comes Malcolm McLaren with

"Buffalo Gals", the first true scratch hit introducing yet another way in which existing music can be reshaped especially by the front room musicmaker

Scratch is a great way of making your own music out of other people's records," claims Malcolm. "All you need is two manual turntables — not automatic ones because you can't control them and a mixer like they have in discos. Then yourdan feed the sound from one deck onto the other. The only other thing you need then is a pair of speakers and, if possible, a rhythm box. But don't worry too much about the latter because you can always use any guy capable of providing a constant beat on a chair anything to give you a pulse." The idea is to play one record that contains a regular disco beat, then to "scratch" on the other deck, lumping from point to point on the record, maybe moving the turntable by hand, in order to repeat any fragment of music that sounds appealing. This way you can build up any number of sounds. forming a montage, just as McLaren and the World Famous Supreme Team, New York's finest scratch specialists, have done on "Buffalo Gals"

'It's just a matter of finding out how to approach things, a matter of testing, claims McLaren. "Then you can do anything that you like - make Olivia Newton-John sing with Cliff or have Depeche Mode working with a Gary Numan background. It's one more step towards turning anyone and everyone

into a music producer.

Not everyone agrees that scratch is as important as Malcolm McLaren would

have us believe.

Grandmaster Flash came up with the first true scratch record in 'Wheels Of Steel' a couple of years ago but very few similar records have resulted," claims Record Shack's Todd, while Chris Hill calls it "A brief fad, a gimmick rather than a new musical direction.

But, even if it's not all that important, it's still a step towards the day when music will be exactly what you and I want it to be and not just how some studio producer intended. Then, maybe, those old records, currently forming songbooks for singers and bands lacking something in the way of ideas, will really come in usefull



Martin Rushent (with daughter): the man who produced the same record twice

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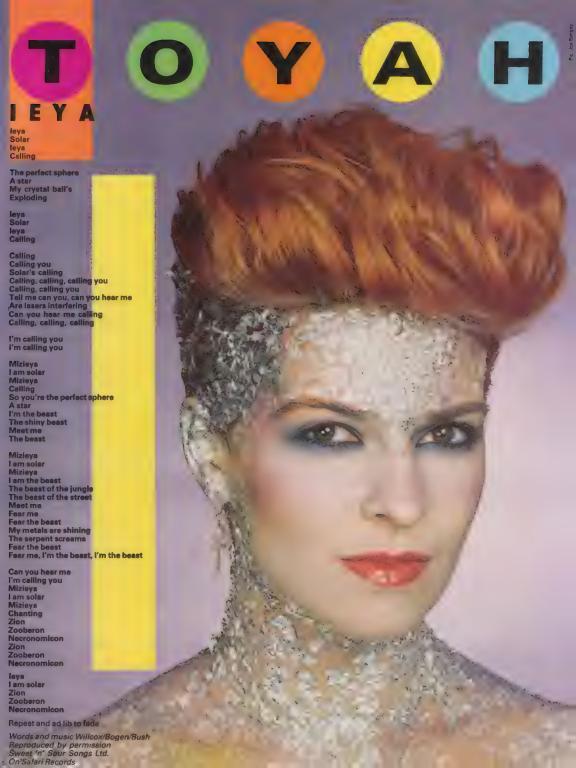
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WANKET COVERAGE



The honds the had and the suf-

Aerobics? Thing of the past. Real keep fit fanatics these days have flogged the trendy track-suit jacket and matching headband and dived into pairs of extremely baggy tennis shorts in order to fully enjoy the benefits of an album called "Get Fighting Fit With The 2 Paras".

The general idea here is to embark on a series of very painful squat thrusts and bicep-busting burpees in a state of advanced patriotic lervour as the 2nd Battalion Paras' band plays "Colonel Bogey On Parade". A must!

Ever heard of Alvin Lee? Or Maggie Bell or Donovan? How about The Strawbs, Frankie Miller, Howie Casey or Roy Wood? Well, not to worry as they've hardly been at the forefront of modern music over the last ten years.

However, they'll all be

However, they'll all be featured in the early shows of a brand new music series on Channel 4 called "Gastank" that starts on January 15. The presenters are Rick Wakeman, one-time organist with "70s pop group Yes and another rock keyboardist from the same era, Tony Ashton.

Tears were shed. And not just when the bill arrived for the Smash Hirs staff Christmas lunch. No. tears were shed because even the hard-hearted hacks and frosty designers of Britain's Brightest were touched by the number of Christmas cards sent in by readers. If you sent us a card: thanks. If you didn't: don't forget next year!

Encompanded exactly how to be a set of thing Powerth Standard will be demonstrated the first second second leading beautiful and the beautiful second second second commission of the second second second second second commission of the second secon



Guitarist John McGeoch's position in **Siouxsie And The Banshees** appears to be uncertain.

"The nature of his illness is such that he can no longer make the contribution expected of each member of the group," was Steve Severin's comment.

McGeoch is still recovering from "nervous exhaustion" and Robert Smith of The Cure has been touring with The Banshees in his place. Whether he'll stick with them or McGeoch will return remains to be seen.



Apologies to **Eric Watson** for not crediting him for the centrespread pic of Wham! he took for the last issue. So touchy these photographers . . .

HAPPY

Devid Bowie (38) on January 8
Jimmy Page (39) on January 8
Rod Stewart (38) on January 8
Suggs (22) on January 18
Chas Smash (24) on January 19
Jeremy Healy of Hays:
Fantayzee (21) on January 19
Delly Parton (38) on January 19

MY TOP TEN



LOL MASON (The Maisonettes)

1. ARETHA FRANKLIN: Say

A Little Prayer (Atlantic)
The same for the

2. THE BEACH BOYS: God Only Knows (Capitol) The strom their best period and a

3. NOEL HARRISON: Windmills Of Your Mind (Reprise) o las loma — va Amar Walon la loma — semsik a

4. BOB DYLAN: Like A Rolling Stone (CBS) The

5. THE BEATLES: I Am The Walrus (Parlophone)

6. DEXY'S MIDNIGHT RUNNERS: Come On Eileen (Phonogram)

7. DIONNE WARWICK: Walk on By (Pye)

8. ELVIS COSTELLO: Oliver's Army (Radar) Great

9. RICHARD BEYMER & NATALIE WOOD: Tonight

DESTRUCTION OF STREET OF S

Reflections (Tamla Motown) Leaderst talke near Marown and a

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After Artemis 81, the televison science fiction bore of 1981, Sting is rumoured to be on the brink of starring in a major science fiction film. Legendary Hollywood film producer. Dino De Laurentis, is planning to give the big screen treatment to Dune, a classic novel of the future, and Sting is expected to loom large in the film. All three of The Police, meanwhile, are recording their fifth LP on the island of Montserrat.

"Street Sounds" is a bright idea for disco music fans. Every month, in between seven and ten 12" versions of the latest dance tracks will be put together on a compilation C60 cassette which can also be bought as an LP. The first "Street Sounds" was released in December, including recent hits by Grandmaster Flash and Raw Silk, and number two will be out towards the end of this month on the Streetwave label.

PETZ.



Madness's 1983 U.K. tour starts in Newcastle on February 21. They've frequently said that they're fed up with the traditional pop concert format so some interesting surprises should be expected. Turn to Nightsout (page 40) for the full list of dates.

TAKE B

The current listening pleasure of a Smash Hits pencil-pusher. This week, David "Scoffer" Bostock.

1. PHIL COLLINS: You Can't Hurry Love (Virgin) 2. WHODINI: Magic's Wand (Jive) 3. SHARON REDD: In The Name Otove (Prelude) 4. WAH!: Story Of The Blues

(Eternal)
5. MALCOLM McLAREN: Buffalo
Gals (Charisma)

If you thought "Young Guns (Go For It)" was fab, you might be interested to know that **Wham!**'s first single "Wham Rap (Enjoy What You Do)" is still available in record shops. They do like brackets in their titles, don't they? The lyrics, of course, are on page two.

STEPP V OUT



Programme and the second secon

CUT IT OUT!

Anyone not got their three Smash Hits calendar tokens? Thought we'd forgotten to include the extra one, didn't you? Well, you were right. Fear not, here it is, especially for all those people who missed out on one of the previous ones.

Send your three tokens,

together with a cheque or postal order (made payable to Smash Hiss) for the right amount of money (45p for folded: 21 for rolled), to Smash Hits Calendar Offer, 14 Holkham Read, Orton Southgate, Peterberugh, PEZ OUF.





I Think **Need** HELP

TESLET ESKULTERICE) TOPUTIN WORDS EMOTIONS TESTUS INTO CERCANION TICLUM

Whaddya Know?

WERE YOU AWAKE DURING 1982? AND IF SO, HOW MUCH DID YOU TAKE IN? FIND OUT BY PITTING YOUR WITS AGAINST OUR ANNUAL QUIZ. ANSWERS AT THE FOOT OF THE PAGE.

- 1. How many members in the following groups? a) Bananarama; b) Duran Duran; c) Bauhaus; d) Dollar.
- 2. The words go "jacomo fino a na ne". Name the song and the group who charted with it in 1982.
- 3. Which lead singer has three E's in his Christian name?
- 4. What do Simon le Bon, Mark Hollis and Steven Parris have in common?
- 5. Name the artists who released the following LP's. a) "Songs To Remember"; b) "Diamond"; c) "The Number Of The Beast"; d) "Thriller".
- 6. Which deejay is no longer a kid?
- 7. What's her full name? (below)



8. Which groups contain the following "creatures"? a) Budgie; b) Animal; c) Rat.

- 9. What hit song does the following line come from? "Sequins and pearls and lots of pretty girls..."
- 10. Which groups are better known to their friends as: a) Will, Les, Peter & lan; b) Martin, Steve, David & Mark; c) Mikey, Jon, George & Roy; d) Stephen & Neil?
- 11. Who had hits in '82 with: a) "Flashback"; b) "Rock The Casbah"; c) "What?"; d) "Wot!"; e) "Club Country"; f) "Love Is All Is Alright".
- 12. Who introduced "body-popping" to Britain?
- 13. The chorus began "don't push me cause I'm close to the edge". Name the song.
- 14. Which films did the following songs come from? a) "Eye Of The Tiger"; b) "Spread A Little Happiness"; c) "Putting Out Fire With Gasoline".
- 15. Which album sleeves feature: a) a sinking ship; b) the singer sitting on a rock dressed as a pixie; c) the group lying on a bed of leaves; d) an outdoor living room; e) plastic dummies around a table?
- 16. "Never thought it would come to this/you don't remember me do you?" Name the song.
- 17. Whose debut LP had the curious title "Difficult Shapes And Passive Rhythms, Some People

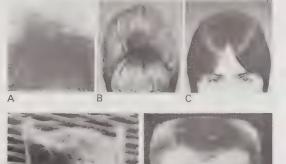
Think It's Fun To Entertain''?

- 18. Who sang about the following famous personalities? a) Arthur Daley; b) John McEnroe; c) Jackie Wilson.
- 19. Name the other partner in the following collaborations. a) Sylvian

& ---; b) Bowie & ---; c) Fun Boy Three & ---; d) McCartney & ---;e) McCartney &---.

20. Which well-known videos featured the stars: a) buried up to the neck in sand; b) dressed up as World War 1 pilots; c) tap dancing; d) riding a horse round Battersea Power Station.

21. Who do the famous hairstyles below belong to?



Score e brige : Your of Wo Z ko ko by The Be eStars 3 lees John of magnish on 4 in John of John of Wo Z ko ko by The Be eStars 3 lees John of John of

ANSWERS



THE BELLE STAR
NEW SINGLE

COMPETITION WINNERS

WHAMI COMPETITION
(Issue Oct 28), correct
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25 Autographed "Young
Gaus (Go Fer til" 12 single;
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French, Warringnes, Mook
Staphans, Boswich, Cotherine
Edge, Hestracil; John Alescane
London W6; Cotherine Toome
Heworth Andrew Martin; You.
Mell Martin, Harlow, Coner Co.
Guernaey, Finna McKentie,
London W6; Seki Barrelet,
Oxford; Jonanae Paury, NewpoDebbis Binutleworth, Liverpoot
E, David, London E12, Amandia
Yearnies, Banding; Wendy,
Cordenus, London E12, Ronte
Polley, Durham, Tracey Tode
Jamos Wandy Cardenus, College, College,

SMALL FACES
COMPETITION (Issue Mev
11th), cerrect answer wes
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28), correct enswer was: 6:
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Best Esthoo Stitter, Michy
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Seymon, Swinser, Schene,
Williams, West Darston,
Lister, L.
List

WILSATIONAL
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28), correct canswer: (b) Bet
Lynch, Prizes et 12' copies
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Newman, Eastbourne; American, Electric Edit Remay, A. Fire.
Claddecker, Ellen Hare
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London SN6; Kayan Ane
Horrow; Lancatic Hercall
London Edit Stephen Pore
Brossien, Life Horrow, Los
SW15; K. Glazzend, Pontefract,
London Found, Pontefract,
London Found, Edit Lancath,
London Found, London Nove.

PORTABLE SOUND SYSTEMS AND LP's TO BE WON!





For 3 runners-up: Toshiba Personal Cassette Player.

For the winner: a Toshiba RT-S782 Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder.



For 46 runners-up. "Direct Hits _ featuring Ultravox, the Kids from Fame, Japan, Bucks Fuzz, Simple Minds & more.

Now answer this truthfully: did you or did you not receive exactly what you wanted this Christmastide? How many of you asked for a brand spanking new Toshiba portable hi-fi stereo radio and cassette recorder and actually ended up with a 400-piece jigsaw of the Royal Corgis? Eh? And how many asked for a Toshiba cassette player and got landed with a Ronco Car-Vac?

Well, have no fear. Now you can get one. Completely free. Those goodly souls at Toshiba and Telstar records have dreamt up the competition to end all competitions. The winner will

become the envied owner of a large and extremely valuable Toshiba Radio & Cassette Recorder (as pictured) PLUS a copy of "Direct Hits", Telstar's compilation LP featuring the works of Ultravox, Japan, Toyah, Simple Minds, The Kids From Fame, Squeeze and many others. The next three runners-up will get a Toshiba cassette recorder each (pictured above) plus a copy of "Direct Hits" and the remaining 44 winners all get an album too. Now is that value or what?

If you feel like giving this a whirl, then apply your massive brain to the following puzzle, jot

the answer on a postcard for the back of an enveloper and send it swiftly to Smash Hits Toshiba and Telstar Competition, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 OUF along with your name and address Correct entries will be put in a sack on January 20 and the first fifty plucked from within will get something very special to kick off the New Year with

Here's the question all the following bands appear on the "Direct Hits" LP Which is the odd one out and why? — a) Japan, b) The Pretenders, c) Squeeze; d) Simple Minds.



CULTURE CLUB

BLACK BOYS EMPLOY SELASSIE WE KISS TO DEFINE WHITE HANDS WHITE HEARTS

WE KISS TO DEFINE
WHITE HANDS WHITE HEARTS
THE GENDER
HOW CAN I MAKE YOU MINE

TAKE ME TO GOD
IN A WORLD OF BLANK KISSES
WHO BREAKS THE COLOUR
I KNOW WHAT THIS IS
A ONE MAN WHO

A ONE MAN WHO
THAT'S HOW WE KNOW THAT'S HOW WE KNOW
YOUR WHITE DOES IT SHOW

CHORUS
YOU'RE WHITE TO DANCE LIKE AN ENEMY
YOU'RE WHITE TO DANCE LIKE AN ENEMY
YOU'RE WHITE TO DANCE LIKE AN ENEMY (YOU'RE SO)

WHITE BOYS FALL OUT
IN A WHIRL OF DECISION
SHOW ME WHAT IS
THEN SHOW ME WHAT ISN'T
A HEART TOO SLOW
THAT'S HOW WE KNOW THAT'S HOW WE KNOW
YOU'RE WHITE THE BLOOD FLOW

REPEAT CHORUS

WHITE BOY, WHITE BOY, WHITE BOY
WHITE BOY, WHITE BOY
WHITE BOY DANCE
DO SOMETHING SWEET LIKE
PULL MY HEART LIKE USE YOUR FEET LIKE
STEAL SOME CULTURE LET'S TAKE THIS DANCE
OH WHITE BOY KISS OH WHITE BOY CHANCE
DON'T TAKE ME OVER DON'T LOSE MY HEART
WHEN I CHANGE COLOUR PM HERE STOP, START

YOU'RE WHITE, YOU'RE

REPEAT CHORUS 3 TIMES

HEY DEVIL KISS ME I'M TAKING CHANCES
NOT FAKING MY CULTURE
THE RHYTHM IT HAS
YOU LOVE YOUR WISDOM YOU DANCE YOUR MIND
WHITE BOYS ARE BABIES NOT MY KIND
BUT LUST IS FASHION SO THAT'S MY SIN
BY FALLING OUT WE'RE FALLING IN
AND NOW I'M BROKEN
WATCH ME GO
I'M TAKING OVER
CAN YOU DO
I'M FALLING OUT WITH THE BIG BOYS

WORDS AND MUSIC BY CULTURE CLUB REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION VIRGIN MUSIC (PUBLISHERS) LTD. ON VIRGIN RECORDS

TALK TALK

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS

of the service of the

Pinetie.

I don't like to read the news you know anything I'm going through I don't like to read the news you know anything I'm going through And she goes

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DAVID

THE MAN WHO SOLD THE WORLD

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TRACEY THORN: Goodbye Joe (Cherry Red) Wonderful acoustic version of a slightly world-weary song from one of my all-time favourite LPs, "Strange Boutique" by The Monochrome Set, which came out about 21/2 years ago. Everything But The Girl chanteuse Thorn provides all vocals and instruments and artfully assumes the kind of breathy, mysterious tone of the '50s solo girl singers she doubtless greatly admires. This'll catch on and the whole of '83 will be flooded with bare-footed types in jumpers and slacks strumming away on bar-stools. You just wait.



THE STRANGLERS: European Female (Epic)

Lilting melodic stuff given soft but firm propulsion by a foursome who've always shown scant regard for females of any nationality. They've somehow mastered the subtle art of appearing all sweetness and light while somehow remaining distinctly untrustworthy. A hit? I fear not.

THE BOX He Time Far Talk (Ge! Dises) 5-track 12" from berserk cross-rhythm merchants whose sole purpose in the record-making business is to concot a"challenging noise". The 'uncompromising' sentiment of this dreadfully produced hotbed of shrieking saxes and nervous basslines is, apparently, an end in itself. It's a lot more challenging, of course, to try and make records you can actually listen to.

LEVEL 42: The Chinese Way (Polydor) Bold, muscular disco fare with its head in some Oriental cloud and its feet firmly rooted in Kool & The Gang. Quite good to boot.

JOHN COUGAR: Hand To Hold On To/ Hurts So Good (Riva) Picture the scene several mad scientists in this shady lab somewhere in America. Flashing lights, bits of wire, test-tubes bubbling all over the shop. Cackling with glee they cram 'big sound' American hit records into this huge computer — Springsteen, Tom Petty, Bob Seger, that kind of thing. Buttons are pressed, a blinding flash and there standing before them is this stocky, leather-clad figure, a hot-dog in either hand. "The name's Cougar," he grits. "John Cougar." And this is another of his records.

MASTY PACTS: Drive My Car (5th Column); DANNY AND THE NOGOODNIKS: Bike (Chrysalis) The Facts (as us real lads call 'em) come wielding a thoroughly excellent thrashing punky anthem promoting the joys of four-wheeled transport complete with flashy 9-million-notes-per-second guitar solo. Our man, Dan, on the other hand, opts for a two-wheeler with which to "terrorize the town", though this second-hand Ant/Marco tribal thump is possibly not the best

Marvin GAYE: My Leve Is Waiting (CBS) Can't hold a candle to "(......) Healing"—as they called it on TOTP—but the same brand of sublimely executed spring-cushion funk over which Marvin is once again consumed by his desire for the tender gender. Some things never change.

equipment.



BUMBLE & THE BEEZ: My Life (EMI) Eyes sensibly on the cash-till, the ingenious Beez forsake last year's gentle drummerless regace for a no-holds-barred slush-filled ballad peppered with little string arrangements. Could put The Four Tops right out of business.



The Tark BRILL: I Have
The Touch (Charisma) A
sequel to the wonderful "Shock
The Monkey" and an even closer
look at the absurdities of human
behaviour. This time it's all the
daft things people do when
getting nervous at parties that
comes under the microscope,
uneasily backed by lots of brittle
drum sounds. Have we
progressed much since Quest For
Fire? Not according to this.

& Shout (Statik) Atrocious cover, by Jam Dury's backing band, of a dance tune made famous by The Beatles almost exactly 20 years ago today. Sounds like an extract from one of those horrid LPs called something like "Funky Party!" that you find playing in trendy supermarkets. Deliberate, I presume.



Under (Epic) Superbly crafted reworking of The Boomtown Rats' "House On Fire" rhythm topped off with hippy flutes and sung by an Australian so indebted to Sting he even nicks his fake Jamaican accent. Comes complete with a neat little storyline, custom-made for a video, that affectionately lampoons the homeland and indulges in all manner of tortuous rhymes ("language" and "sandwich" being one of the better ones). It's great.

GRANDMASTER FLASH & THE FURIOUS FIVE:

Scerpio (Sugarhill) Woefully limp follow-up to "The Message". Where the latter crackled with excitement and seemed to have a life all of its own, this is just a listless welding of old B-52's bass-lines, bits of subaqua soundtrack and an "T-Speak-Your-Weight" vocal drily intoning a list of all the

incredibly hip East Coast acts you should be digging/scratching/jiving to (most of them Sugarhill ones, of course). Sadly reminiscent of kooky Belgiam synth trio Telex, whose career was solely based upon coaxing weird bleeps from banks of machinery because they had no sense of either rhythm of purpose. The Grandmaster has already proved he has both.

VIRUS: Stepping Stene (5th Column) Cover version fever still rages on Punk Street as singer Psyco (please!) delivers a rather lame version of the old Monkees hit once given a spirited boot up the bum by The Sex Pistols. Next, "Daydream Believer" from The UK Subs? Don't laugh.

THE KILLJOYS: This Is Not Love (Clay) Sturdy pop-rock of vaguely Jam-like quality which deserves to be played on the radio. Fascinating fact Number One: did you know Kevin Rowland was once a party to a band called The Killjoys? Number Two: these people claim they were mentioned in Coronation Street. What more could they possibly want?

THE ONLY ONES: Baby's Got A Gun (Vengeance)

Re-release of one of the finer moments in the eventually unfruitful career of this late '70s English 'underground' rock group. Singer Peter Perrett had a wonderful knack of churning out dank and faintly dangerous tunes about weird girls and "eternity" and suchlike, and was also an early pioneer of String Vest Chic. On the reverse he tackles dinky Christmas carol "Silent Night" and comes our String Vescond best. Cliff Richard it ain't.



EONA: I'm Not Unnute!

(Ensign) You know what time of year it is when the Singles Page starts filling up with David Bowie impersonators called Bonk: wingeing about how their girlfriends think they're a bit kooky but that's really because they don't understand them. His real name's probably Lance or Norman or something.

SOUTHERN DEATH CULT: Moya/Flatman

(Situation:2) Explosive
Ant-ish tub-thumping powerfully
interwoven with guildr and
over-laid with clipped political
comment. Extremely good.

SWAS TO

GET SMART! PRODUCTIONS once more kick off the New Year with an information-packed page for all those people who want a membership card as proof of their affections. Don't forget that not all fan clubs offer the same kind of service and standards vary a great deal. These are all the reliable addresses we've got but,

unfortunately, we can't be held responsible for clubs that move, go bust or close down. The golden rule is always the same; enclose a stamped addressed envelope and never send off any money unless you know what you're going to get.

Abba

2 Sheep Street Highworth Swindon Wilts

ABC

PO Box 92 Sheffield S1 1LP

AC/DC 18 Watson Close

Bury St. Edmunds Suffolk Adam Ant

The Bivougo PO Box 4QT London WIA 4QT

Aswad CBS Press Office 17/19 Soho Square ondon W1

Bauhaus

c/o Press Office Beggars Banquet 17/19 Alma Road Wandsworth London SW18

Begtles Book Monthly

45 St. Mary's Road Ealing London W5 5RO

The Beat PO Box 320

Birmingham B20 Blancmange

BCM Blancmange London WC1N 3XX

Bucks Fizz 1 Nursery Close Swanley Kent

Kate Bush PO Box 38

Brighton BN1 5QA



The Clash PO Box 87 London NW1 8NF

Kid Creole And The Coconuts c/o 42 Molyneux Street London W1

Culture Club c/o Wedge Music 63 Grosvenor Street London W1

The Damned O Box 362 London NW2 4DH

Depeche Mode c/o Mute Records 102 Seymour Place London W1

Dexys Midnight Runners York House

27 Tenby Street Birmingham B1 3EE Dollar

PO Box 95 London SW15 2TN

Duran Duran 273 Broad Street Birmingham Bl 2DS

Sheena Easton

PO Box 95 London SW15 2TN

513 Fulham Road

London SW6 1HH David Essex 513 Fulham Road London SW6 1HH

The Fall 429b Bury New Road Salford 7

Genesis PO Box 107 London N6 5RU

Gillen Pan Agency 10 Sutherland Avenue London W9

Gary Glitter 134 Deerleap

Bretton Peterborough

Haircut One Hundred oncessions Limited

513 Fulham Road London SW6 1HH

Heaven 17

Hammersmith Studios 55a Yeldham Road Hammersmith London W6

The Human League Hammersmith Studios

55a Yeldham Road London SW6 1HH

Imagination 34 Salisbury Street London NW8 8QE

Iron Maiden PO Box 391

London W4 2LZ



The Jets

110 Westbourne Grove London W2 4RJ

PO Box 430

London SW10

Lene Lovich

c o Stiff Records 115.123 Bayham Street Camden Town London NW1

Madness

PO Box 75 London N1 3RA

Barry Manilow 513 Fulham Road London SW6 1HH

Marillion 53 Quainton Road Waddesdon

Modern Romance PO Box 95

London SW15 2TN Motorhead

PO Box 3RS Leeds LS7 4QZ

Musical Youth c o Press Office MCA Records Great Pulteney Street London W1

Olivia Newton-John

c o BBC Oxford Road Manchester Gary Numan

Middlesex TW19 5AZ

Hazel O'Connor PO Box 131 Coventry CV6 4NF

Odyssey PO Box 5

Washington Tyne & Wear

OMD

PO Box 95 London SW15 2TN

Pigbag 70a Uxbridge Road London W12

Pink Floyd c/o William Elsing lepenlaan 4

3203 XE Spykenisse Holland

The Police Codrington Mews 41b Blenheim Crescent London W11 2EF

Pretenders

60.62 Old Compton Street London W1

Queen

46 Pembridge Road London W11

Rainbow PO Box 7

Prescot Mersevside

Cliff Richard PO Box 4164

Amsterdam

Simple Minds

72 Sparrows Herne Kingswood Basildon Essex

Siouxsie And The Banshees

c o Hammersmith Studios 55a Yeldham Road London W12

13 Bellevue

Wordsley Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 5DD

Soft Cell 17 St Anne's Court Wardour Street

London W1 Status Que

PO Box 430 London SW10 Shakin' Stevens

Bull Hill Cottage Hawstead Nr. Bury St. Edmunds

Stiff Little Fingers

45 Park Road Didcot Oxon

Stranglers PO Box 32

Studios Road Shepperton Middlesex

Thin Lizzy 9 Disraeli Road

Putney London SW15

Toyah

Inter-Galactic Ranch House 44 Seymour Place London WI

U2

PO Box 48 London N6 5RU

PO Box 235

Sparkbrook Birmingham B128LR

Ultravox

c o Compendium 234 Campden High Street London NW!

Undertones

c o Press Office EMI Records 20 Manchester Square London W1

Vice Squad

14c Lamsdown Place Bristol BS8 3AF

Whitesnake

c o Concert Publishing 166 168 Liverpool Road London NI

Kim Wilde

PO Box 202 Welwyn Garden City Herts AL6 OLT

Wings

PO Box 4UP London WIA 4UP

XTC

Allydore Limited 65 Priory Green Highworth Wiltshire

Yazoo

Basildo Essey SE16 4EB If there was one record which was guaranteed to get the old knee-caps swivelling and the paper hats bobbing frantically up and down at many a seasonal shindig, then it had to be "Best Years Of Our Lives" by the band many love to hate, Modern Romance.

Talking to two examples of this endangered species -David Jaymes, immaculate in suit of shocking pop-star blue, and new vocalist Michael J. Mullins, equally spruce in lounge-lizard green - it is hard to imagine why two such charming and dapper gentlemen should have been subjected to many unkind comments from certain sections of the media. They make great dance records, look good in photographs, wear neat clothes and even have clean hair. "Best Years" is their fifth hit single and yet the daggers which were unsheathed when they first bounced into the charts with "Everybody Salsa" are still out for them.

"I think that it's now about time people realised that we never jumped on any bandwagon," says David, sipping at his glass of white wine. "We were never about all that in the first place."

The 'bandwagon' to which David refers was, of course, the widely anticipated resurgence of Latin-American music which, in the summer of 1981 was thought to be the Next Big Thing. The London cocktail set which had previously spawned Spandau Ballet had already earmarked Blue Rondo a la Turk to follow suit and so when Modern Romance released first "Everybody Salsa" and then "Ay Ay Ay Ay Moosey" it seemed as though they had deliberately spoiled the party. Blue Rondo sank without trace and Modern Romance have never really been

You've got to remember as well that we came out at the same time as Spandau and Duran who were treated and analysed on a more serious level," explains David, "We were just thought of as another trashy pop band with pretentions towards those same bands. But - and I really must emphasise this - we've never been pretentious, we've never ever said that we wanted to do anything but make cultured, successful pop records. I

think it's the other groups who are pretentious — those who make all these wild statements before they even bring a record out and then find it difficult to live up to when they're not successful."

After "Queen Of The

Rapping Scene" gave them their third hit in a row, they decided that their following was strong enough for them to deliver something in a more mellow vein, to prove, as David points out, "that we weren't just a jump-up-and-down party band". "By The Way" was an horrendous flop, "Mmmm," ponders David ruefully, "the DJs took one listen and said

'hey, this is not Modern

What the band's singer and David's songwriting partner Geoff Deane didn't want to do, soon after "Cherry Pink", was to continue being a member of Modern Romance.

"Honestly," emphasises David, not wishing to give offence, "it just reached the stage where we both wanted to do different things and the gaps between us in terms of ideas were becoming more and more apparent. So, rather than ruin our friendship and the partnership we had built up, we decided that Geoff should leave. It seemed sensible as he was much more suited to a solo career than I. I only

had actualy recommended to David that I take over from him. So when Geoff left it was more like a boss retiring and helping to find a replacement."

Off went the lads into the studio and before you could say "hit formula", 'Best Years Of Our Lives' was positively thundering towards the top of the hit parade. A tour followed and the consensus of opinion was that here was a dance band which wasn't half bad.

"That's another thing that surprises people," exclaims David. "Because we picked up this tag for being a bubblegum band that looks good on posters, everyone thought that we were just cardboard cut-outs smiling in front of session musicians. We do play all our own instruments . . . pretty well, to "

"Over here," adds Mick,
"our audiences are pretty
young, people who can listen
to a record or see a gig
without being influenced by
what the papers tell I then
we're supposed to be about.
In other countries, though,
where such criticisms don't
exist, we get a much older
crowd."

If, in Britain, Modern Romance's fusion of pop and Latin upset those purists to whom they were less than shallow pretenders, in those American countries whose rhythms they have shamelessly plundered, they are the bees' knees. With a number one album in Venezuela and 3 top-Twenty singles in Central America, they are very hot stuff indeed.

Modern Romance begin the new year by recording a new album and, with the songwriting spread throughout the band, it promises to be quite a different proposition from their previous effort. What's the betting, though, that it will include at least one of those irresistible party poppers!

As David and Mick guzzle the last of the wine, pat out the creases in their threads and think about further adventures in clubland, David leaves with the perfect quip: "We're a successful band and I don't need to slag off other groups — it's dishonest. At the end of the day, it's not what you say you're going to do but what you actually do that matters."



Romance — they're all about having a party.'"

In releasing a cover version of "Cherry Pink And Apple Blossom White", they blatantly reverted back to the formula which had borne much successful fruit and promptly found themselves back in the charts.

"Of course it was a difficult decision to make," says David without shame. "We wanted to show that we had a bit of depth, another side if you like, but at the same time we still wanted to be successful."

wanted to be part of a group. We still work together but not in the same format. Had we continued, I think we might have fallen out eventually."

Geoff's replacement in the band was yet another disgustingly goodlooking boy by the name of Michael J. Mullins. Mick explains how he got the job. "Well, I'd sung backing vocals on the last album and played a couple of gigs with the band, so I knew all the songs as well as being friends. Although I wasn't aware of it at the time, Geoff



THE DREAMS OF CHILDREN

I sat alone with The dreams of children Weeping willows And tall dark buildings And I've caught a fashion From the dreams of children But woke up sweating To this modern nightmare

Cr. 1.5 And I was alone No one was there I was alone No one was there

I caught a glimpse from The dreams of children I got a feeling of optimism But woke up to a grey And lonely picture
The streets below Left me feeling dirty

Reprotitorus

Something's gonna crack up Your dreams tonight You will crack up Your dreams tonight You're gonna crack up Your dreams tonight You will crack on Your dreams tonight Something's gonna crack on Your dreams tonight You will crack on Your dreams tonight

I fell in love with The dreams of children I saw a vision of only happy days I've caught a fashion from The dreams of children But woke up sweating From this modern nightmare

Repeat drons

Something's gonna crack up Your dreams tonight You will crack on Your dreams tonight Just gonna crack on Your dreams tonight











ADAM AND THE ANTS Beat My Juest

Well tie me up and hit me with a stick Beat me, beat me Yeah use a truncheon or a household brick Yeah beat me, beat me

There's so much happiness behind these tears
Beat me, beat me
I pray you'll beat me
For ten thousand years
Beat me, beat me

Oh well now
I'm black and blue
Baby I love you
Be your dog
Just one flog
You don't hear me plead
Make me bleed
Beat me, beat me

Well use a truncheon or a cricket bat
Beat me, beat me
A good beating's really where it's at
Beat me, beat me

Oh well now
I'm black and blue
Baby I love you
Be your dog
Just one flog
You don't hear me plead
Make me bleed
Beat me, beat me

Repeat last verse and ad lib to fade

Words and music by Adam Ant Reproduced by permission Ant Music Ltd. On CSB Records





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Dave Rimmer fills out an end-of-term report on the school careers of the famous

As any fool knows, your average band member was a lazy maker at school, skipping o go and practice the ving the teacher hell y subversive japes did put in an e, and probably perled for turning up in porting some

day-glo haircut. Or at least, only s. Sure, some pop folk illed — Boy George, for or Glenn Tilbrook and ey from Squeeze. But than not in interviews hint at a hell-raising h is in keeping with us spirit pop stars are to possess. The truth is quieter.

of Sting, Bryan Ferry and Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler,

types have spent some time in art school. Marc Almond, Adrian Wright, John Taylor, Adam, Mike Barson, Joe Strummer, both of Blancmange, some of Bauhaus, Green and Tom from Scritti Politti, to name but a few.

And if further proof were needed about pop stars' performances at our academies of learning, some very revealing school reports have fallen into our hands.

For example, in the 5th grade at St Francis Of Assisi School in Brooklyn, New York, Leee John of Imagination was absent for only five days in the year, got "A" 's for both Conduct and Effort, received top marks in both Art and Music, and got a mark of 98 — meaning "Excellent" — overall. Only in Science were his marks poor. He received a



MARI WILSON

School Report 1968

Here it is: documentary proof of Mari Wilson's "above average" abilities.

Form Master's Report. The above to indicate that Raymones lucks a sense of urgeney with regard to his future

comments all

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Captain Sensible's report, Easter 1970.

for example, didn't spend all their g up teachers. They ers (presumably aten up themselves). , all sorts of pop only got through have actually got degrees. Like three of half of ABC. Simon Weekend is currently

n, in one of the music egions of musical



Raymond "Captain Sensible" Burns displaying his legendary lack of urgency.

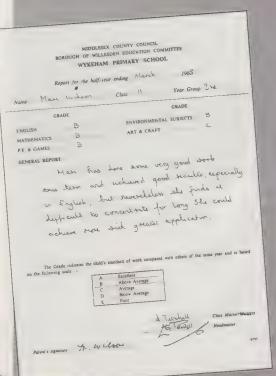
miserable 68.

John Taylor, or Nigel John Taylor as he was christened, also seems to have been something of a swot. His 1968 report card from Our Lady Of The Wayside School, Solihull sums him up as "keen to learn" and "always a lively contributor to the oral lessons. His work shows imagination and originality"

Although he only managed to cop a "B" overall — his 'Mechanical Arithmetic" and "Physical Activities" seem to have let him down — one notes that he got a "Good" for Conduct, an "F. Good" for Attendance, and a "V. Good" for Punctuality.

Not to be outdone, Bananarama's Keren Woodward came first in her class of 54 people at Bromley Heath Junior School in 1970, with "Excellent"s and "Very Good"s across the board. In what can only be described as a "rave review", the closest thing we can find to a criticism comes under the control to the strict of the s her best'

Zipping over to Wykeham Primary School in Middlesex, we find no less than three reports



OTHER SUBJECTS:

Needlework

Very good

P.E.

Good

Keren Woodward: good at everything

from Mari Wilson in classes 16 and 11 in 1967 and 1968. Mari's marks don't differ all that much across the three assessments — mostly "B"s and the occasional "C" — but the teachers' comments do. In February 1967, Miss Bruce remarked that Mari "shows enthusiasm and interest in all aspects of work" although "she can be careless sometimes". By the following July, Mr Tutchell can be found lamenting that

"Mari rarely shows much enthusiasm for her work... is not as keen to do well as one would wish".

Although covered with inky fingerprints that make it almost illegible, Beki Bondage's report under close scrutiny turned out to be full of all sorts of revealing remarks. Under Physical Education, for example, we learn that she was "more interested in rugby than netball, lacks concentration in hockey, and is often a troublemaker". Her English teacher found her to have "an excellent vocabulary, but her imagination tends to verge on the ridiculous at times'

lots of "satisfactory"s, although one or two teachers note that he works well under supervision only". His best mark, oddly, was in Engineering Drawing. Mr Allen, his form master, notes that "Raymond . . . is hampered by a very forgetful disposition for which he must try hard in future to overcome"

The next year does indeed find our Captain trying harder, and although "his attention is still inclined to wander frequently" he cops a "Very Good" for Geography and "Good"s for both Engineering Drawing and Arts and Crafts although most teachers seem to consider him a

little too "slow"

The third year still finds "Raymond" to be "making progress", although his Engineering Drawing master worries that "he is unpredictable" and old Mr Allen comments that he's "capable of doing a lot better academically if he adopted a more mature attitude. This has been lacking of late". The nicest comment comes under Arts and Crafts: "Has love and talent for the subject."

Leee John: Top Of The Form.

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To the despair of her Domestic Science teacher, she had "no interest in the subject whatsoever. Spends more time leading other members of the class astray than learning. Far too talkative, has dirty habits' Generally, her homework "nearly always arrives late", she needs 'to concentrate on verbs" and the "standard of both work and school uniform has fallen considerably over the last two terms

Meanwhile in Stanley Technical School, South Norwood way back in 1966 we find Captain Sensible "progressing fairly well" with

By the fifth year, though, the Sensible score has slumped. Phrases like "weak" and "shows little interest" abound, and the form master is moved to comment that "Raymond lacks a sense of urgency with regard to his future." His best mark was for Arts and Crafts, a miserable 47 "Has to get on without tuition," his teacher remarked, "and finds it very difficult'

All of which goes to show that although reports might say what the school thinks about you, they don't have much to do with what happens afterwards. So, dear reader, if yours isn't up to scratch take heart!

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Above: The report on John Taylor — or Nigel as he's known to his mum — from that "F. Good" group Duran



IOHN TAYLOR

School Report

Pictured left is a youthful John Taylor. Dig those teeth



LAST CHANCE ON THE STAIRWAY

I don't remember quite how I met you, was it long ago? I just get a picture of sun in your eyes, the waves in your hair Maybe it's something said in a movie or you could ve said last night

And sometimes I'm caught in a landslide and my beat's so in time, can you look at me I'm out of reach, I'll talk if it feels right

Funny it's just like a scene out of Voltaire twisting out of sight 'Cause when all the curtains are pulled back we'll turn and see the circles we've traced Ain't no game when you're playing with fire

And sometimes I'm caught in a landslide and my beat's so in time, can you look at me I'm out of reach. I'll talk if it feels right
So nervous to say, tell me can't you see
If you want, I'll tall forever
I can't say no more
Baby, dance with me
Please don't say, leave it 'iil later
I've had my last chance on the stairway

Maybe it's something they put in your pertume or the look in your eyes
It could be the atmosphere sinking
Ooh I don't know what you're thinking I don't even know what you're drinking but it keeps this heaven alive

Last chance on the stairway

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VISIONS OF CHINA

But just a little too thin

By be happy, but I haven't a common to this life in my mind.

Chorus Stay with me Stay with me Stay to fight like every good boy shoud Cling to me

ling heroes again I wever thought of other the fashion, but don't have To your life in my mind

Repeat chorus

k backwards, say visions of Chi and strong our visi

ik packwards, say i My visions of China Vie're living our visions of China

We're your state of Chira

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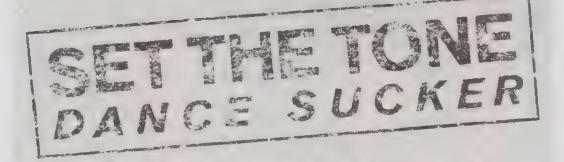
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SPANDAU



WE ARE THE NIGHT WE'LL TEMPT YOU AND TURN YOU ON LIVE IN OUR HEARTS AND PLAY WITH YOUR MAN

OH THESE ARE YOUR TOYS
HOLD THEM AND THEY'LL OBEY
BLOOD INTO LIFE
THEY STILL BECOME YOUR TOYS

THIS IS YOUR GAME
IN HEAVEN IN YOUR BEDROOM
CHIVALROUS KNIGHT
WILL SAVE YOU TONIGHT

THEY'LL LOOK FOR REASONS AGAIN AND AGAIN LET THEM GO, LET THEM GO, LET THEM GO YOU'LL HAVE YOUR REASONS AGAIN AND AGAIN FOR LETTING THEM GO FOR LETTING THEM GO

WE ARE THE NIGHT
WE'LL TEMPT YOU AND TURN YOU ON
LIVE IN OUR HEARTS
AND PLAY WITH YOUR MAN

THEY'LL LOOK FOR REASONS AGAIN AND AGAIN LET THEM GO, LET THEM GO, LET THEM GO YOU'LL HAVE YOUR REASONS AGAIN AND AGAIN FOR LETTING THEM GO

STAND BY THE WALL
WATCH AS THEY SHOOT YOU DOWN
FROM BLOOD TO STONE
THEY STILL BECOME YOUR TOYS
YOUR TOYS, YOUR TOYS, YOUR TOYS

Words and music by Gary Kemp. Reproduced a composition Polymetric Publishing Ltd. On Chrysalis Records.

"I actually enjoy Top Of The Pops very much but it lacks the excitement of a live programme. You can't cheat the kids. You've got to take a few risks. The Tube's more hassle and work for the team, but it pays dividends in

the end.

Malcolm Gerrie speaking, and it can't be denied he has a point. At long last a programme has appeared that actually threatens to disrupt the TOTP monopoly and — more importantly — attempts to break away from the traditional BBC approach to pop music on television. It's a brave and mostly successful venture that, as I soon discovered, is as unpredictable behind the scenes as it often is on the screens

Friday is transmission day and things start early. Very early.

9.00 am. Newcastle's bleak skylines are transformed by an inch of crisp snow as your reporter disembarks outside Tyne Tees, studio five, better known as The Tube. Entry to the studio is gained through a long, plastic and steel tube, from which the building and show took their name

9.30 am. Although the show doesn't start until 5.15, Jools Holland, the irreverently impish presenter and ivory tickler for The Millionaires, is already on the set running through camera angles for an interview which will take place in The Tube's reception area. The show has a tendency to spill out of the studio into any available corridors or rooms which are instantly transformed into makeshift sets. "The truth about this show," he explains, with no trace of concern, "is that nobody knows what will happen until it happens. We have rehearsals, but once the studio floor is covered with 350 fans, it can be murder just getting from one place to another.

As Gerrie later explains: "We feel that the 'event' itself should be more important than the programme, and the venue should become almost like a club. So we made a membership and gave out 100 'Punter's Passes' which we handed out in local discos so we now have a regular audience coming in."

10.00 am. Malcolm Gerrie's headaches are just beginning. "After the first show Pete Townshend told me I must be insane, trying to cram three live bands, plus film and video clips, plus interviews, plus poetry into a live television show. He's

probably right, but we like to run that risk

Today's show is a heavy metal spectacular and, in addition to the usual problems, he has scheduled a jam session between Twisted Sister and Motorhead, a song from an acoustic folk singer. and an invisible-guitar-playing contest which has attracted over

Malcolm has reasons aptenty to be contemplating a career in something less nerve-wracking, like lion tarning or industrial espionage.

11.00 am. At the mystic art of playing imaginary guitars, Jean Francois Gilbert Desdleds is a past master. He beat all-comers at London's Camden Palace with

technique which included such

property of the second section of the contract of the second seco The state of the s The same I would be a long that I was not because the same about the same in t

> fifty entrants, sixteen of whom. incredibly, are girls. Because the show is live, if any of these uncontrollable events run too long, Malcolm has to find ways to bring the show to a satisfactory end before the seven o'clock news starts. "Sometimes we have to drop whole videos, or cut short an interview in the middle, because I'd rather do that than cut back on the live music

On top of his timing problems, he has to think of the characters appearing on the show. Lemmy of Motorhead is unpredictable; lagy Pop is rumoured to have gone through a plate glass window the night before and his erratic temperament is legendary; Twisted Sister, the American cult HM act, are rumoured to be difficult customers, and the combination of all three could lead to mayhem. Add to this the fact that the steadily falling snow might prevent half the acts, or the audience, from arriving, and

refinements as tuning up in mid-solo after breaking an imaginary string, adjusting invisible amps, and playing behind his head, which is obviously much more difficult. "I was wearing the wrong shoes at rehearsal yesterday," he confides, "but I've got my plimsolls today, so I can move much better." I consider offering him the number of a respectable psychiatrist but, in the end, I simply wish him luck

12.00 noon. We break for a bit of scran (food, according to them Geordies) and, in the canteen, I bump into Paula Yates, the show's other main presenter. How does she feel about the criticism she's been getting for her flouncy-floozy non-interview technique? I find myself retreating under a hail of abuse which, as near as I can tell, means that Paula has nothing printable, or even particularly rational, to say on the subject

This is just what Malcolm

Gerrie needs to put him off his scran, but he manfully defends Paula's honour. "She's got a lot to live down, with the gossipy things she did before, but she's just a 22-year-old lass, and she's trying really hard." Why did he choose Paula and

Jools?

'Well, Dave 'Kid' Jensen was really keen to host the show, and I love his show, but I wanted to choose new personalities to avoid the standardised Radio One deejay image.

How's Jools taken to the difficult task of getting people to talk on TV?

"If they don't talk now I'll just shove them out of the way and tell a few jokes," he says. "And if I have to introduce anyone I don't like, I won't pretend that I like them. Why should I? Really, I'm a pianist not a presenter. In fact my band The Millionaires are going to appear on the week after next. I had to bribe myself to get us on.

2.00 pm. Lemmy and Robbo of Motorhead have arrived and taken up residence in the hospitality room, which is beautifully bedecked with full-colour original Judge Dredd artwork. On hearing that Iggy is to be on the show, Robbo suggests that "It might be inadvisable for us to meet," and recounts an earlier encounter which ended with Iggy biting a lump out of Robbo's shoulder. "He's a maniac . . . and I respect maniacs," says Robbo, "but I don't wanna get too near him.'

3.00 pm. By now, gentle reader, you might have deduced that the chaos emanating from The Tube on a Friday evening is as nothing compared to the chaos behind the scenes before it hits the air. Down on the studio floor Smash Hits candid camera operator Virginia Turbett is diligently snapping Twisted Sister in rehearsal when, in the midst of a powerchord rumoured to have triggered a major avalanche in the Himalayas, the music dies and a Yankee voice reverberates across the studio demanding that Virginia cease, desist and generally quit taking photographs.

After much HM breast beating, it transpires that Twisted Sister don't want their fans to see them without their stage make-up on and unless Virginia gives them the film from her camera, they will not appear on The Tube. Oh, how we laughed. Hysteria does



Part-time presenter Michel Cremona



Tik (or Tok).



Jools and Paula swapping merry quips.



Malcolm Gerrie: "people think I'm crazy" A director's eye-view as *The Tube* goes on the air





Jools Holland sits down to some "scran" with *The Tube*'s producers, Malcolm Gerrie and Paul Corley (right).

'Air' guitarists desperately wrestle with an extract from "Led Zep



THE

TUBE

From previous page . . .

that to you sometimes.

4.00 pm. Back in the hospitality room, Motorhead have moved out, and Iggy has moved in. His face appears scratched and haggard. He runs his hands up and down the walls and across Virginia's back, singing a ditty called "I've got a Japanese fighting spider," in menacing tones. A companion suggests he might like to go to his dressing room and be alone. "Why be alone when you can be a parking lot?" he asks enigmatically. I begin to hope this is all some inexplicable hallucination which will soon pass, preferably without bloodshed.

4.30 pm. Twisted Sister still refuse to go on. As we argue loudly in the corridor, two white faced robots with metal spikes protruding from their heads pass between the feuding factions. I'm thinking that if Malcolm Gerrie would simply record life in the Tyne Tees corridors, he'd get better ratings than Coronation Street. I find it difficult to believe that Twisted Sister's manager is saying "Now look, we're trying to be perfectly reasonable mentally summon up a curse which should transform him into a weird being, capable of giving grown men the heebie-jeebies, but he doesn't turn into Paula

Yates 4.45 pm. I meet the robots again. "I'm Tik," says one, "and this is Tok." It all smacks of Alice In Wonderland, but they turn out to be flesh and blood guys who used to be members of music and dance troupe Shock, but now specialise in robotic movements and make their own electronic music. What are they doing on a heavy metal special? "Well, we do have long hair, and we play imaginary synths. We're a bit like Mad Max 2 on ice," says Tik (or Tok). They make the valid point that "television has been getting too slick and this show is a good contrast. Bands can get on here without having a hit," and Tok (or Tik) adds "television should create hit records, not just give more exposure to things that are already in the charts.

5.00 pm. With the show only minutes away. Twisted Sister's participation is still in doubt, and Virginia is heroically refusing to surrender her films. Passing the make-up room, I almost fall over Michel Cremona, one of The Tube's part-time presenters,

chosen from 3000 hopeful amateurs. This is her second show, and for much of the day The Tube's TV monitor screens have been lingering on close-ups of her legs "The thing that really makes me nervous is people asking me if I'm nervous."

Luckily, she enjoys heavy metal, so she's looking forward to the show. "My mum and dad always video it but, I must admit, I've never actually seen the show the whole way through."

In order to enable the show to continue, a compromise is reached with Twisted Sister's "perfectly reasonable" manager. He doesn't get the films but we agree not to use them.

5.07 pm. I ask Linda, a devoted HM fiend queueing outside, why she thinks music journalists are so cruel to heavy metal music. She has no doubts. "Because you've got absolutely no taste or culture whatsoever." Thus chastised, I retreat to the relative security of the control room as the countdown begins.

The control room sits high above the studio, with director Malcolm Dickinson supervising a bank of sixteen TV monitor screens on which he can see the view from any one of six cameras plus the opening shots from a number of film and video clips. As the opening sequence hits the air, Dickinson begins calling the shots, "Tight in on camera one now wipe . . . pan out come to camera two . . . hold it . come to four and wipe . . . mix through to two . . . zoom out and cue Michel .

Miraculously, amid a blizzard of dandruff thrown up by the gyrating imaginary guitarists, Michel is there and the show is on the road. The next hour and three-quarters passes at light speed, and The Tube's backroom boys remain magnificently in control, even though the music is generally so loud that the cameramen downstairs can't hear the directions from the control box.

Even more miraculously, nothing goes seriously wrong, and Malcolm Gerrie brings his show in on time.

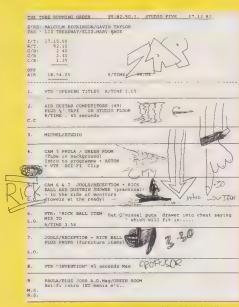
And this, he claims, he'll be doing for many weeks to come, despite persistent rumours—particularly from the extremely hostile Sun newspaper—that The Tube is nearing its end.

"We've known for a year we'll be coming off in April," he says, "but that's just the end of the present series. We'll be back in the autumn and there'll also be a five-hour special in June."

Wish him luck.



Tygers Of Pan Tang at the soundcheck



Page One of Jools Holland's script with added doodles.

Twisted Sister: you ought to see them with their make-up off





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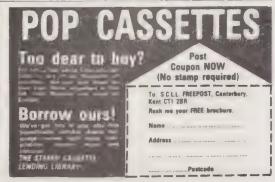
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Weekly

YOUR TOP SOCCER WEEKLY





I'm writing to complain about your bias for and against certain bands, these bands being Japan, Japan and Japan. I feel that you should print every article in two parts; one for people who like the band and the other for people who don't.

Ashley Elsdon, South Croydon.

Bit wasteful on the old paper, don't you think?

It's funny that The Fun Boy Three can sing about Northern Ireland when they've only been here once, with The Specials, and they were stuck in their hotel all day (apart from going to a record shop) until the concert started.

It's not Terry Hall's concern at all until he's been here and seen that Beliast is not as bad as what he sings about it. John McConnell, Beliast.

I've a few things to say about The Tube. First, Paula Yates is a pain, Jools Holland is a pain, the prat who does the poems is a pain and the whole lot of them get on my nerves. And when they give Marc Almond a crappy microphone that doesn't work, it's just too much If I were him. I'd have rammed it down their throats.

Marc Almond Fan.

You liked it then?

The end of the world is nigh!
Riots, unemployment, Margaret
Thatcher...and now...a
Brummie ex-waiter
impersonating a hot air balloon
warbles to a ventriloquial blonde
(think about it) on a video
compiled exclusively from all the
pieces that should have been left
on the cutting room floor and it's
gone to Number One in the
charts.

Aaaaargh! Think I'll go and impersonate Vincent Van Gogh (and you know what he did!)

Simon le Bon's Left Shoulder Pad, Wolverhampton.

Wasn't he the one who burnt the cakes? Or was that Queen Victoria?

I read with interest Paul Tucker's letter on Alternative bands versus Pop bands. The bit in black type at the bottom suggested that groups like Joy Division (e.g. Bauhaus, Echo & The Bunnymen, New Order, Siouxsie etc) are not entertaining because they are too "serious". But although these groups are serious, they produce great music — dark, gothic, frequently beautiful; I listen to Joy Division for enjoyment, not torture. Their music is original, stimulating, passionate, but above all entertaining (in a much wider sense).

It's easy to say: "I like futurist



music" because all futurist bands sound similar, and you either like or dislike that sound. I like a wide variety of music, from Joy Division through Bowie. The Doors to Brecht and Weill and Erik Satte. Fairly diverse, but they have this in common; they all make music for the brain as well as music for the ear.

I'm not saying that anything in the charts is rubbish — Bowle is the ideal example of someone combining originality, experimentation and "art" with commercial success. But nor is the reverse true. Even people who claim that any hitless group must be awful will in the next breath define Bucks Fizz, Barry Manilow and The Tweets as "crap". But is there any real difference between Duran Duran and The Tweets — I think not.

However, it is not the job of Smash Hits to educate people they buy Smash Hits to find out about hit groups. In this respect, Smash Hits does very well, providing a diet of crap with lots of superficial gloss and ingrained banality with just the occasional touch of class, thereby accurately reflecting the state of the charts. Andrew Clarke, Surrey.

Cheers — Barry (the occasional touch of class).

I bought your Smash Hits Yearbook (which, I must say, is excellent) as I am α fan of ABC and after seeing that Fry had written a story I was intrigued to buy it and glad I did. But the story of The Genie Of The Chelsea Boot has left me puzzled

Why does Fry make out he is such an unglamorous, fish-faced creep? To me he's got "The Look Of Love" and given the chance I'd give him "All Of My Heart" as "Tears Are Not Enough". I'd even write to him on "Valentine's Day"

and I would let him "Show Me" how to shoot a "Poison Arrow" or two and so we could be "e ver 2 gether" I'd let him "Datestamp" me so our love would last from here to eternity.

Susan, Nortolk.

After seeing U2 at the Hammersmith Palais, I felt I had to write and say what a fantastic night it was. At the beginning, Bono said it would be a night to remember and he was right!

It was the first concert I had been to at which I felt a very special atmosphere, a feeling of total dedication to their music and faith from U2, and a feeling of devotion to the group from the audience.

Please, please, could you do another feature on them. It would be an ideal time to do one as they have a new album coming out in January called "War", but you, being Smash Hits, know that of course?

5. Wood, Tunbridge Wells.

Coming up in the next issue, on sale January 20th.

I've been a fan of Duran Duran for some time now, and I know I shouldn't be saying it, but in their official calendar for 1983 I couldn't help noticing that on the August page, if you take a good close look at John Taylor, you will see that his shoes don't fit him.

Seeing as I'm so observant, please can I have a record token? Liz Will, Fife.

P.S. No offence, John.
I'm writing to complain about the three articles you've had in the last three isues of Smash Hits stating that certain groups are splitting up and their own personal views on the split. Why is it that you use a double spread on the talented Jam breaking up, totally waste a double spread on Japan splitting up and yet have a

tiny, almost invisible article on The Teardrop Explodes breaking

Maybe The Jam and Japan have been going for longer than the Teardrops and maybe they have more fans but this doesn't make a great amount of difference. Surely you could have sacrificed at least a page of your priceless rag on The Teardrop Explodes splitting up instead of that measly little clip on Bitz—I also thought the headline was in bad taste.

I saw The Teardrop Explodes in concert at Hammersmith Palais and they were truly brill! I'd do anything to see them again.

Helen Cadogan, Winchcombe.

The reason we covered the Japan and Jam break-ups in such detail was because they were both pretty unexpected, unlike the Teardrop's final explosion which many people saw coming a long way off.

A Record Review.
MALCOLM McLAREN: Buffalo
Gals. A nauseating drivel that
insults the human ear with its
monstrous gibbering shrieks and
vile noises.
Graham Nickson, Truro.

Shows promise.

At last someone has answered back to your interviewers. I speak, of course, of the great and talented Kevin Rowland. I'm not surprised that Kevin was fed up when Dave Rimmer asks questions like "How does the current rustic look relate to Dexys lifestyle?"

As for Rimmer's definition of a fair question i.e. "Do you find it hard to take your clothes seriously?" Talk about stupid questions!

Does Dave Rimmer fall about laughing when he sees Kevin Rowland wearing what he feels comfortable in?

You may say that you only interview groups to please your readers but not many of your readers seem to like Kevin and Dexys, judging by letters like the one someone wrote about people like poles but not Kevin Rowland. Well, "John Taylor's Hat", what do you think of this? Q: What do Kevin Rowland and a packet of Polos have in common? A: They're both very tasty.

M. Wilson & A. Lee, Billericay.

On the other hand...

Dear Dave Rimmer,

I totally agree with what you said at the beginning of your interview with Kevin Rowland. He's probably never interviewed anyone in his life and he shouldn't be lecturing you on



how to go about things. Like you said, it's no wonder he's come in for a lot of stick. It's his own fault.

Perhaps if he wasn't so unco-operative people would write better things about him. Also the impression he gives of himself is that he doesn't care about anyone else's music but is primarily concerned with his own. This may not be a bad thing but it seems to have taken over somewhat. He has said that he only listens to the radio to see what's going on. It's like he thinks he's perfect, the be-all and end-all of all musicians in pop. Nobody else could match up to him. That's what really annoys me about him. He's forever saying how awful most of today's music is (without a really good Smash Hits Fan, Bury St

I would like to pounce on you and give you a real shaking up! (Promises, promises). All your dull features in your mag are of rotten groups like Blancmange,

Edmunds.

Why not have a Barry Manilow feature? Too scared in case the rock fans bash you in? Well, all I want is some nice glossy, delicious, kissable photos of my hero and some little story to go with it. Easy?

AC/DC, Musical Youth, etc

If you print this letter (in your best typing, please!) then I will send you a piece of my little cousin's christening cake. Fancy that? Well. Ed., get your thick Ed on to this and let's bring some ROMANCE into this mag!! Mike Nolan's Greasy Hair, Glasgow.

OVER MY DEAD BO... (Steady! — Ed.)

Is it my imagination or is Bazza psychic? I'd been subconsciously realising that The Pale Fountains were using parts of "I Go To Sleep" but it never clicked.

Anyway, what I really wanted to say was this...

U know the picture on Bazza's page in the December 9 issue? Well, it occurred to me that that picture shows the reason why David McClymont of Orange Juice has a flat nose. I will explain: Dave must have been in The Spotnicks fam. He was on his way to a gig. all togged out in his helmet, and he walked into a lamp post, squashing his nose on the glass of his helmet. The effects of the blow were permanent and that is why he has a flat nose.

By the way, you Orange Juice fans, don't take this to heart. I think O.J. are v good, especially I love "I Can't Help Myself". I'm just stating a fact, that's all. Claire, Radlett.

A worthwhile contribution to medical research. Thanks.

Your magazine is lacking something — me! I can't type, I

can't take shorthand and I'll probably fail all my exams. Doesn't that quality me for work on Smash Hits?

Hold it! Before you tear up my masterpiece and put it in the bin (along with that empty brandy bottle you've sneaked in on the quiet) let me tell you about myself.

My name's Emma, and my talents include losing programmes at gigs and persuading the merchandising people to replace them for free; standing in the cold outside the Radio 1 building; putting messages in pop star's pockets; chucking scripts on stages hoping that the bands will give me an interview; and pestering people like you.

Also, my ambition as a 12-year-old was to be a drum-playing motor mechanic on a ranch in Mexico.

If you burn my letter, I won't be offended. I'll just refuse to send you any of my work when I'm a highly successful freelance journalist.

You've had your chance! Emma, Streatham, London

You win the Annual Smash Hits Golden Ibex Award for Cheek And Cheeriness Above And Beyond The Cail Of Duty. You also made us laugh, so here's a £5 record token.

As soon as I buy my copy of Smash Hits. I eagerly turn to the letters page, only to find Haircut One Hundred (and especially Nick Heyward) are yet again mentioned in nearly every letter. And more to the point, being insulted!

Nick Heyward seems to be everyone's larget. Someone even wrote in to say he never says anything intelligent. So what? Who cares if he doesn't go on about boring technical things, and how they get a certain sound? I'd much rather read a interview that makes me laugh. I think tractors, Tonka Toys, bananas and Thunderbirds are much more interesting.

I he wants to paint the world yellow, let him. And if you give me a bucket of paint I'll help him. President of the Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Nick Heyward, Crimple Meadows, Pannal, Harrogate.

Crimple Meadows?

Dear Jon Davey (December 9 issue).

Alison of Yazoo (the greatest group in all the cosmos), chose the band's name because of the irony. Yazoo was a small Southern American Blues record label, which was named after the Yazoo River. What you wrote may well be true, but it isn't what you are meant to take from the title.

Of course, it doesn't mean anything to anyone except fabulously intelligent and handsome people like myself and . . . well . . . erm . . er others like you. Jason Keith (sorry, Icouldn't think of a silly name), Peterhead, Scotland.

The price of albums really gets up my nose! It's not that they cost too much, but their price varies so much from shop to shop.

I recently bought the Squeeze album Singles — 45s and Under' from a large record store for £4.29, which I thought was quite a bargain. But a few days later I saw the same record on sale in my local shop for only £3.99. The next day I noticed that Wooles were selling Squeeze's album for £4.99 (their "blitz" price), and W. H. Smith were charging £3.79.

As it happens, the record is so good that I wouldn't mind paying twice the price I paid for it, but I do think it's unfair for some shops to charge so much. Surely, if one shop can sell an album for £3.79 (and still make a tidy profit) then the others can too.

Squeeze Fan, Wavertree, Liverpool.

In Smash Hits December 9 issue, a Toyah fan Irom Reading was complaining about all the Fame products on sale. Well, Toyah fan Irom Reading, if you'd care to pop into your local Superdrug store you'll find the shelves packed with Toyah make-up, Toyah hair care sets, Toyah scrapbooks, Toyah writing sets, Toyah combs and brushes. Toyah rulers and Toyah pens and pencils.

Anyway, The Kids From Fame are much more talented than the multi-coloured midget.

Miss S Bentley, Tooting, London.

Please, please, please no more Batt jokes! Mick Karn's Lost Eyebrows, London.

We heard that David Sylvian is doing a single with Paul Weller called "Batt's Entertainment".

You got it wrong, you sillies! You should have given away a pair of Black Levi's, not a silly old flexi-disc. Mind you, it obscured the picture of Kevin "E.T." Rowland, so I suppose we should be grateful.

Talking of the Rowland-E.T. connection, have you noticed that they actually have the same facial bone-structure? I mean, look at the mouth, those eyes, the lines of the face? They even share the same puzzled expression.

Kevin should sue for a share of the royalties. Van Morrison, Kirkintilloch, Scotland.

Can it be true? Is Simon le Bon's hunky 17-year-old brother Jonathan really 6' 6"? I thought that Simon was 6' 2", but judging from the picture (in the December 9 issue) this just can't be true. Or is Jonathan standing on a box?
R.T., J.T. and SIB Lover,
Birmingham.

Have you any idea what's the most popular programme on BBC 17 TOTP, you're probably thinking. Or Blankety Blank or maybe that Late Late Breakfast thingie with old fungus-face. Or even The News at a pinch. Or L For Lester.

It's none of them. This I know 'cos I bought a copy of the Daily Express the other day and it had the watching figures in it. Want to know the answer? Tenko. You heard right, that really dopey series about those daft women stuck in some stupid prison camp in some daft jungle, and all they ever do is make a racket and moan about how lousy their portion of monkey curry tastes. Incredible, isn't it? No accounting for taste. Sean, Cambridge.

I'm in a state of shock.

Thank God Christmas is over. Can't stand it myself. It was bad enough last year when the dog (yes, we have a present-giving dog in our family), gave me some horrible compilation LP of awful synthesizer groups but this year really took the cake. Imagine my surprise — nay, horror — when I opened a parcel I thought might contain some games or books or something really useful and there staring me in the face was an Incantation album (not from the dog this time).

It's a pop record, said my loony Aunt (whose name I won't tell you in case she ever reads this). And she kept going on about their "nutty" image— all those blankets and things. Listening to it was worse; no vocals, no fantastic drum sounds or guitar. Just a load of weird whistles and probably a few sheep in the background. Be warned.

Not your day, was it?

Can anyone help me? I'm a perfectly normal bloke, right.

I like normal things like The Clash and Echo & The Bunnyman and U2 and Bananarama (well, it's normal, isn't it?, but there's one thing that's totally beyond me. What, just what, is attractive about Boy George?

No, okay, so I'm a bloke and it would sound a bit poofy if I said he was "georgeous" or something (sorry about the pun). but I can usually see why grils like most blokes — John Taylor, Sting, Nick Heyward (although he seems a bit wimpy). But Boy George? Does this mean that loads of perfectly normal looking guys are going around attaching bits of rope to their hair and trying to look washed-out and generally mincing about a lot? Saints preserve us. Simon, Morecambe Bay.

You're probably wondering what's going to be in the...

NEXT ISSUE

of this very wonderful magazine which is out in the shops on...

JANUARY 20th 1983

so perhaps a little mention of the three words...

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. might give you a clue, plus a trip round the homeland with...

and of course loads of things too wonderful to mention

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dates

Pat Benater: London Rammersmith Odes 1), Birmingham Odes Lowcastle City has 1

centre (March 13, 15mm)
Conference Centre (15),
Newcastle City half (14,1
Immingham Spidon (17,14;
Immingham Spidon (18,14;
Immingham Spidon (18,1 stasgow Apollu (6)

Fun Boy Three day (February 13), Cardiff Top Rec (15), Birmingham Odeon (16) Fortsmouth Guildhall (17), Poc Tts Centre (18), Brighton Care 20), London Hammersmith Janus (21, 22), Newcastie Mayron

nightsOUT

SIMPLE MINDS

1982 may well go down in history as the year of Polished Pop (as in Dollar, Bucks Fizz. ABC etc) but give me the rough diamonds any day—the edge of honest feeling and the power of suggestion in all those unexplored corpers

all those unexplored corners. Judging by the length of Simple Minds current date sheet, at a time when many a "bigger" name are faced with a half empty venue. I'm not alone. It also speaks volumes for the band's staying power that they can take on such a demanding work schedule and still put on such a convincing performance.

It's an impressive show all right. At the back, keyboard player Mick MacNeil and new drummer Mel Gaynor (scarcely visible behind a vast array of drumkit) perch aloft on their gilded high risers. In front of them provides powerful singer Jim Kerr, lithe and athletic, flanked by guitarist Charlie Burchill and bassist Derek Forbes.

rogener, alead by a crystal clear sound and a wonderful light show which is evocative and at times quite beautifully colourful without ever being technollash. Simple Minds till the cavernous darkness of the Lyeeum with the power of their emotions and their special brand of magic.

That their ideas and images are never too clearly defined or thrust at you is as much an essential part of their attraction as their gift for melody — it's an invitation as much as a declaration.

With the material coming

(24), Edinburgh Playhouse (25); Glasgow Tiffanys (26), Manchester Apollo (27), Leeds Uni. (March 1), Sheffield Top Rank (2).

Joe Jackson: Nottingham Royal Concert Hall (January 10), London Hammersmith Odeon (11), Portsmouth Guildhall (14).

Madness: Newcastle City Hall (February 21, 22), Manchester Apollo (23,24), Liverpool Empire (25), Birmingham Odeon (27), Poole Wessex Hall (28), London Lyceum (March 1), London Dominion (2,3), Brighton Conference Centre (5), Glasgow Apollo (8), Edinburgh Playhouse (9).

Prince: London Hammersmith Odeon (January 26). mostly from the splendid "New Gold Dream" album plus a clutch of memorable singles in "I Travel", "Celebrate", "Sweat In Bullet" "The American" and the wonderful "Love Song". Simple Minds' great success is that they can stir the head, heart and feet with the power and depth of their imagination and feelings without ever having to resort to the cheap to court popularity. Theirs is a deserved success.

At a time when all that glitters is definitely not gold. Simple Minds are a welcome reminder of the real thing. If 1983 is going anywhere, then it's going Simple Minds' way.

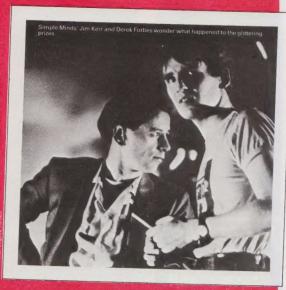
Completing one of the year's better billings were rising stars. China Crisis. In contrast to their earlier appearances with original drummer Dave Reilly and a tape machine, the creative nucleus of keyboard player Gary Daly and guitarrist Eddie Lundon have expanded the band to include a new drummer, a new bassist and a second keyboard player (Mike Douglas, ex-OMD and Human League.)

This is not a complete success—while making them sound more like a conventional band, it also robs their songs of the dynamics and atmospheric subileties that give their songs so much appeal. "Scream Down At Me" for instance sadly missed Reilly's attack and ended up like a rock band canter with Daly

struggling to keep pace with the words.

Not that it matters that much in the final analysis. They have so much talent and they're obviously so much more at home in the studio making wonderful records like "African And White that it's only a matter of time before they too can sell out The Lyceum

Ian Cranne



BLANCMANGE LONDON

Blancmange are currently riding a substantial wave of success, with both their album, "Happy Families" and single, "Living On

The Ceiling" riding high.
Hardly surprising, then, that
their pre-Christmas show at
Hammersmith Palais was a busy
affair. Like their fellow electronic
duos, Soft Cell and Yazoo,
Blancmange consist of one
moody, silent type on keyboards
and one, more extrovert
character taking the limelight
(and the vocals).

They compensate for their lack of physical presence with a fairly lavish stage set; the stage is framed with stretched white fabric in which large arches are cut. By peeking through these arches, the audience can view the screens upon which suitable images are projected throughout the set.

Most of the music heard comes via tapes, with Stephen
Luscombe's synthesizer and Neil

Arthur's vocals grafted on the top. It goes without saying, consequently, that their live sound is fairly faithful to the recorded article. In fact, if it wasn't for Arthur's boy-next-door charm, it might well have been the album.

Bands like Blancmange are investing more and more time, money and trouble in presenting their image to the public via the video and yet they still persist in using the tour as a promotional device. They write songs and

record them efficiently enough but I'd be quite content to see them on the television without venturing out of doors to make their acquaintance at closer quarters.

quarters.
The only time the concert
threatened to turn into anything
more than a glorified personal
appearance was during the
encores when Mr Arthur gave us
his unaccompanied rendition of
Elvis Presley's "Old Shep".

Peter James



Blancmange: pudding on a good show

Smash HITS

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Editor
David Hepworth
Design Editor
Steve Bush
Editorial
Ian Birch (Reviews)
Mark Ellen (Features)
Neil Tennant (Bitz)

Design
David Bostock
Kimberley Leston
Editorial Assistants
Bev Hillier
Linda Duff

Writers
Johnny Black
Ian Cranna
Tim de Lisle
Fred Dellar
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Peter Silverton
Photographers
Jill Furmanovsky
Sheila Rock
Mark Rusher
Virginia Turbett
Eric Watson

Ad Manager Rod Sopp Ad Representative Carole Harris Advertising & Publicity Zed Zawada Assistant Petra Elkan

Publisher Peter Strong Circulation Department EMAP, Bretton Court, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DZ.

starteaser

ANSWERS FROM PAGE 37



crossword

ANSWERS (FROM PAGE 32)

ACROSS
1 'The Girl Is Mine'; 7 Eddy Grant; 9
(Boomtown) Rats; 10 (Judas) Priest;
12 (A) Flock Of (Seagulls); 14 Glam
(Rock); 15' Rio'; 16 Friddle; 17
'Layla'; 19 Dolly (Parton); 21 'Lover's
(Holiday); 24 (Steeleye) Span; 26
NEC; 28 (Michael) Jackson; 29 and
20 down 'Cry Boy Cry'; 30 'Truly'

DOWN
1 Tears For Fears; 2 'Eastworld'; 3
Ice; 4 Led (Zeppelin); 5 Marvin
Gaye; 6 'Eat To The Beat); 8 'Do
You Really (Want To Hurt Me)'; 11
Shalamar; 13' (Love Over) Gold'; 17
Dionne (Warwick); 21 'East (Side
Story)'; 23' Sunny (Dayl'; 25 Andy
(Partridge); 27' Cat (People)'.

My name is Helen and I'm looking for a handsome male to be good friends with, aged 13-15. Into The Human League and almost everything else. Interested in having fun? Then write to: Helen Teague, 18 Saint Dunstan's Crescent, London Road, Worcester WRS 2AF.

I'm a 17-year-old Belgian girl whose likes inclued The Police, Peter Gabriel, Pink Floyd, football and more. If you're interested in sharing ideas, please write to: Martine Vincenzotto, 18 Rue Arthur-Warocque, 6510 Morlanwelz-Hariaut, Belgium.

Hill'm nearly 16 and I'd like penpals of any age, from anywhere. I'm a female Duran Duran freak, but also like Japan and Yazoo. Write to: Vince, 9 Camena Street, Shaller Park, Brisbane 4128, Australia.

Male aged 15 wants a female penfriend of same age. Likes: any 2-Tone bands, including The Selecter. Also likes The Beat and Bad Manners. Please contact: Neil Atkinson, 18 Skipwith Close, Brinklow, Nr. Rugby, Warwickshire CU23 ONW.

Female Numanoid (16) would like to write to any other Numanoids, living anywhere. Also into Bowie, Bauhaus, Culture Club. Associates and lots more, including collecting badges. Write to: Kay Francis, 76 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

We are two males who want to write to any females aged 13-14. We like most music, especially Duran Duran, Simple Minds, Iapan and Numan, If interested, write to Brian Devine (Sid for Short) and Kevin Burns at 80 Arden Grove, Kilsyth, Glasgow.

My name's Gill and I'm into Spandau Ballet, ABC, Duran Duran and Depeche Mode. Martin Kemp lookalikes especially welcome, so write to: Gill, 41 Vicarage Road, Formby, Liverpool L37.

Hi, we are two girls (aged 14 and 15) who like The Bluebells. Altered Images, CaVa CaVa and more. Mandy's hobbies include bass guitar and Dave Bluebell, while Claire enjoys singing and chasing her cat. If you are musically inclined and have similar interests, write to us at: 18 Church Green, Myatts Estate, London Swa

I am aged 12 and require penpals aged 12-15, into Duran Duran, Talk Talk, Ultravox and others. Send pic to: Peter Royal, Stonedale, Sycamore Rise, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks.

Male aged 17 is willing to write to anyone with a genuine interest in U2, Siouxsis And The Banshees, Stranglers, Monochrome Set, Simple Minds and others. No wallpaper music fans! Write to: Gerry Milne, 80 Mossheights Avenue, Cardonald, Glasgow GS2 ZTY.

Two mod girls (both 16) are waiting for two equally mad guys, aged 16-18, to pick up their pens and write to them. They must have a good sense of humour and like Yazoo, The Human League, sixties music and most other things, but we take exception to heavy metal, punk and Renee and Renatol Write to: Betty & Elieen, 33 Thornton Road, Northampton NN2 6LS.



Two female punks would like to write to male punks aged 16-19. We like Yice Squad, 999, G. B.H. Dead Kennedys and others. Write to Diane or Deb at: 8 Holmroyd Avenue. Crosshills, Nr. Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 7LH.

I'm a mod, waiting to bear from modettes of any age and from anywhere. Into sixties music and scooters. Write soon to David Heath (or "Chalkie"), 28 Newfield Drive, Crewe, Cheshire. I hope to answer all letters.

I'm Su and would like a male penpal to step my way! You must like Japan and David Sylvian. Send pics, if possible, to: Su, 56 Marldon Road, West Derby, Liverpool L12 SEZ.

Hi, I'm Mark, aged 16, with blond hair and into Madness, The Beat, Bad Manners, FB3 and more. If you're not totally same (and just a little bit bannans), then write to: Mark Breeze, 52 Westbury Road, Heath Farm Estate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 3HW.

If you feel that you are something out of the ordinary, that you are unique and proud of it, then drop me a line. I'm 17 and you can call me Janelle, okay? Write to: 4 Eagle Lane, Snaresbrook, London Ell 1PF.

My name is Paul Harris and I would like to write to anyone. I am 18 and like Ultravox, Duran Duran, Kate Bush, etc. If you a require a nice, polite penfiriend, then write to me at: "The Dormers", Southam Road, Napton, Nr Rugby, Warwickshire.

I'm a 19-year-old Finnieh female and I'd like to write to a male 20-24. My hobbies including reading, drawing, dmoing and music, fave bands being Simple Minds, Culture Club, Yazoo, ABC and more. Write to me soon at: Erja Linden, 35990, Kolho kp 1, Rijhonthe, Finland.

My name is Duncan Boxall and I'd like to write to females aged 10-13. I am II. Fave groups are Madness. The Human League and Bad Manners. Write to: I Green Gates Cottages, Lurgashall, Petworth, Sussex GU28 9ES.

Two sixteen-year-old girls are in search of delectable maie penpals aged 18+. We re into fashion, all types of music (except heavy metal) and we have a strange sense of humour. Pics if possible and we will try to answer all letters. Write to Jame & Karen, c/o 15 Boston Avenue, Coley Park, Reading, Berkshire.

Hi, I'm Gwen and I'm aged fifteen. I like The Jam, Japan, UB40 and Blamcmange. Write to me and find out more, the complete address is: Gwen Graham, 2 Railway Street, Passage West, Co. Cork, Ireland.

My name is Alison and I am 16. I like most music including Duran, ABC, Imagination and Toyah, but hate heavy metal. I'm mad about "The Kids From Fame" and am very interested in disco dancing and ice skating. Contact: Alison Smith, 4 Boileau Close, Eaton Rise, Norwich NR4 6RI.

My name is John and I like all sorts of music and love going out. I am also very keen on all sports. Please contact: John Woolston (aged 17), 33 Truro Road. Park Hall, Walsall, West Midlands WSS 3EQ.

I am 20 and would like female penpals aged 17-21. Favourite bands include The Beat, Duran Duran, The Cure, Japan, Visage, Soft Cell and early Stranglers. I've no real dislikes so please write to: Michael Smart, 3 Fairfield Close, Milton, Weston Super Mare, Avon B522 8EA.

Attention? 17-year-old girl wants thousands of fit boys and charming girls as pengals. I am mad on synth-music, SF, old Cary Grant moves, the old Ants and Simon le Bon. Write extra speedily to: Pam Scorzin. Am Schafgarten 21, D-6724 Dudenhofen/Pealz, West Germany.

My name is Denise Brian and I'd like to hear from both males and females. I like all music but Motown is my favourite, especially Diana Ross. If you're 15+, get writing to me at: 11 Chesterfield Avenue, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10.

I'm 12 and want male penpals aged 12-15. Likes include Depeche Mode, The Clash, Madness, The Go-Go's and much more. No heavy metal fans, Pics if possible to: Katie McCormack, 68 Millbrook Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

Two nutty Madness fans, aged 15, would like to write to male skinheads and mods. We also like The Beat and The Specials. Write to: Lin & Kar, 58 Britannia Road, Kingswood, Bristol.

Fancy a friend from Africa? I'm 21 and female and I'd love to write to write to miles and females of any age. My kind of the Las by Melba Moore, Evelyn King, Kool And the Gang and lots of regare. Write to Ve Rona, Box 90403, Luans Hya, Zambia.

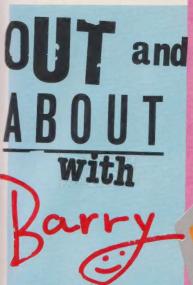
I'm a bored 15 year old into Talk Talk, Depeche Mode, Ultravox, Tom Tom Club and Visage, I wouldn't be bored any more if you would write to: Sharon Campkin, 3 Claters Close, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

French modette seeks mods or modettes. If you like The Jam, the sixties and are aged 13-16, write to: Melynda Grimout, c/o Gandin, 133 cours Albert Thomas, 69003, Lyon, France.

My name is Steve, I am 18 and I like Duran Duran, HC100 and ABC. I'm looking for letters from Gibs aged 16-18 so please hurry and write to: Steven Curran, 58 Mariboro Road, Stretford, Manchester.



Looking for pen friends? Send a postcard wilh brief personal details to RSVP, Smash Hits. 52-55 Carnaby Street, London WIV 1PF and we'll do our best to help you. Please enclose a phone number where we can contact you. This will not be published.



Hello, readers. Stone me, it's '83! Almost forgot, me, but luckily I was sauntering home from Scooter Club on Friday nuit and bumped into a v. friendly bunch of local lads singing merrily and falling over due to the number of tins of drink they were carrying. Said blokes kindly helped me stop the trusty two-wheeler by bunging bricks at the front tyre, after which they greeted me with hearty boots in the burn (wacky local custom, I reckon) and then suggested we all went swimming in the Thames and that old Baz here - due, no doubt, to my extremely beefy and butch bod (the envy of millions) — should lead the way. Turned out to be real poofters of course.

Helped me with my brill nosedive off the local bridge but then chickened out of a dip themselves and scarpered off giggling weedily. Still, pretty trendy way to kick off the

Le Nouveau Anneé, what? Makes a change from the crazy merry-go-round of pop biz parties at which the man they're all calling The Wit Of Wapping (moi) has become such a vital ingredient . . .

But I digress, mates. Got a minute? Good, cos your world-wise wordsmith, the Gossip City Rocket, is in a bit of a reflective mood at the mo. Gone, friends, is another year and, with it, multo fond memories. Ahead lies the great uncharted highway of the future. What pop persons will rise from nowhere to become the fab superstars of tomorrow? And what hapless souls will plummet from the tip of this glass-mountain we call Showbiz to the dread abyss of Obscurity? (Whatever that means, mates.) Dunno, me, I'm just nicking all this from the pen-pusher's best pal, ("A Beginner's Guide To Very Long And Weird Words" by Martin Fry, the man who puts the 'pose' in prose).

Needless to say, adoring public, Baz's plush luxury office suite has been besieged of late by gibbering music biz talent scouts desperate for a few hints on what's shaping up to be the Next Big Thing. The foresight of Yours Truly is legend, chums. Look at my Tips For The Top in '82 - The Wedge Barnets from Norbury. Four really great guys in rather large trousers tinkering about on synths and penning brill and meaningful lyrics about how strange life is when you're a machine 'cos you can't get a job and the Government doesn't like you very much and how the world's like a crazy disco and is sometimes rather depressing (or something like that). Sad to say, friends, the Barnets' debut 45 on vinyl (as we say in the Biz), "Pasty-Faced And Very Fed Up", didn't quite crack the whole scene wide open as I thought it would. Bit of a shame,

The rest of the year, though, was blessed with happier events. Magic moments stored upon the magnetic tape of the Baz memory (good, eh?). Let's just flick the switch to Rewind" and see, mates, what comes flooding back . . . yes, I see it now, Christopher Cross, ELO, The Nolans jiving to "Ticket To The Moon"...oh, it's been a great year... the fab Tight Fit in those butch jungle togs singing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight", D.

Train, and what about old Adrian Gurvitz? All

that stuff about "sitting in an attic and writing a classic". That's poetry! But on, on . . . who else comes careering into the Barrington Hall of Fame? Vicky 'D', Patrice Rushen . . . and . . . yes, yes, it's Toni Basil.

Amazing how easy it is to forget these little nine-carat nuggets, mates. But, soft, there's more. What about the combined talents of such mighty musical forces as Charlene? And the mind-blowing brilliance of Classic Nouveaux or Asia? To think there's all these unwitting persons sitting around saying that nothing's been going on all year! How can they when there's been Cheri and Toto Coelo and Fat Larry's Band? Never has such a wealth of goodly sounds poured forth from the sound systems of this sceptred isle. Never in the entire history of recorded music has there been such an embarrassment of brill discs, talented tonsil-airers and wild wig-out dance routines, and I haven't even mentioned THE PINKEES!! . . . (somebody have a word with him - Ed.)

Oh, hello readers. Baz here. Feeling a little miffed, actually, as the lads in the office suggested I take the rest of the day off. Said I could finish off the column this morning. Bit "over-tired" and "over-excited", they reckoned. Well, not quite sure why my being out of the office for a bit should make them any less knackered, frankly. Can't take the pace, that lot, that's their trouble. Anyway, where was I before being to rudely interrupted?

Oh, yes. The Baz Lightning Look At The Year Ahead. Okay, ready for a few incredibly accurate predictions from the man in the know about what lies in store for '83? Mod Revival for starters. Sure of it, me. Loads of nattily dressed persons on scooters with parkas on and 'Jam' written all over the back with all those funny arrows and . . . (They've split up - Ed.) Oh, have they? Nobody tells moi anything. Sorry, start again. Salsa Revival, Loads of nattily dressed persons in baggy suits and stuck-on moustaches going "arriba!" and mucking about with castanets and fab bands like the brill Blue Rondo A La Turk will become incredibly successful and make about nine million pounds every minute (most of which they'll give to moi for my v. loyal support, etc.) (Likely. Next? - Ed.)

Ska Revival. Feel it in me bones. Loads of nattily dressed persons in wacky black and white togs, pork pie hats and stuff all shouting "Roood Bo-oys" very loudly while the reformed original Specials thunder through their latest number one smash, a fab ska version of "Riding Along On The Crest Of A Wave"... (Lads, lads, here a minute - Ed.) New Romantic Revival. Got money on it. Midge, Strangie, The Spands, Simon le Bon, all form this Supergroup with Lemmy on bass just to get the headbanger market, pack Wembley six nights running with loads of nattily dressed persons in chiffon blouses and sparkly headbands and riding trousers as they do this big-band fab scratch remix of "Musclebound" complete with the Royal Philharmonic . . . (You two keep him talking and I'll get the stretcher - Ed.). Moody Belgians Playing Synths Revival. Can see it now ...



The Pinkees: just look at 'em!

